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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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FRUITS OF THE RAIL.

"The Coming Pittsburgher."

Effects of the Connellsville Railroad—Preparations at Baltimore for Handling the Petroleum Trade—Will It Become a Leading Refining Center?

[From the Baltimore Bulletin.]

One of the sights which intelligent foreigners go systematically to see when they visit the United States, are the oil yards and refineries where the vast petroleum business of America is conducted. If the foreigner be a bookmaker, this industry figures in his pages as one of the most interesting and characteristic features of the country. Especially are its labor-saving arrangements admired and detailed. To handle a barrel of oil, flour or pork, costs 2½ cents; so, if he handled four times, the cost is ten cents; which, upon a transportation business of 2,000 barrels per day, would amount to $5,000 a year: it is equal to some thousands of miles of transportation. But by the American system of stationary tanks and tank-cars, the whole of this cost (practically) is saved. The oil is made to handle itself, and the cost becomes literally inappreciable. The elevator operates on the same principle, and does an amount of handling that would cost 25 cents at a cost of less than 2 cents. With the opening of the Connellsville Railroad a large oil traffic will be diverted to Baltimore, and we are about to see the tank system applied in a large way.

FANCHER'S PETROLEUM WHARF.

Some time ago, Fancher & Brown hired one of the Winans storehouses over by Spring Garden, with the accompanying wharf, to which ran a switch from the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and began handling the petroleum from Western Virginia. Their principal consignments have been of the lubricating or machine oil of that region, which has undergone but a partial refining to free it from benzine. A good part is shipped to Europe and a portion to New York and Boston. Last week a full cargo was cleared for Belgium. Last season Russia took a large quantity. At the wharf there is twenty-one feet of water, which is sufficient for the small class of vessels in which petroleum is usually shipped. From five hundred to eight hundred tons register. If more deep water is wanted, twenty-eight feet could be had by pushing the wharf a few yards further out into the channel.

A finer natural oil yard could not have been made than the land at the head of the Fancher wharf. It falls by a natural but not steep slope down to the wharf. The rail track is brought in on the natural grade; the tanks will be built upon a level below the low car trucks, so that the cars can be tapped and run off into the tanks simply by attaching a hose. A tramway from the wharf will be run on a level below the tank again; so that the latter may can be similarly tapped and the oil run into barrels standing on the tram trucks. These will be headed, and may be delivered directly to vessels' tackles standing by the wharf. Thus the first actual handling which the merchandise will receive will be that of stowage aboard the vessel. Hence the cost, "free on board," from the oil well as a starting point, is reduced to an absolute minimum. There is no nonsense about us in this part of the bagher from bare ground we have a magnificent basin. All is plain sailing. There is no element of obstruction or delay; nor any reason why the city should not be laid down at Antwerp from Pittsburgh at a less cost for "through" transportation than by any other route.

ON A LARGE SCALE.

The stationary tanks may be conveniently built to contain from 6,000 to 10,000 barrels. The new tank capacity to be erected here will be probably about 9,000 barrels. The tank cars carry from 70 to 80 barrels each. The contents of the usual petroleum barrel will average 45 gallons. The present warehouse has capacity for only about 9,000 barrels; but the new sheds to be immediately erected will store over 50,000 barrels. Several old buildings adjoining for 80,000 barrels can be provided. The cars can be run up alongside the warehouses and the barrels are rolled in on "ways," and afterwards rolled out and down on the wharf by the same apparatus. Most of the present barrels of crude oil make a pile which the reader will not readily call before his mind's eye. Ten thousand of one thousand are hardly difficult to fancy. But when it comes to a yard containing 50,000 or 100,000 barrels, we confess ourselves altogether at a loss to comprehend what it will look like.

THE COOPER DEPARTMENT.

When shipped the oil must be barreled. Of course, the barrels must be made on the spot. Here, then, is another large industry, which is incident to the shipping of oil. One thousand barrels a day is a business not at all beyond the possibilities of the future—equal to only twelve tank cars—but the cooping of a thousand barrels per day will employ a great many coopers. Timber and stock can be got, and the labor of getting this out and its transport to the ground makes work for many a lumberman and further business for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company. An addition of thirty thousand tons to the annual tonnage of Baltimore is an important increment to the business of her ship-chandlers and the various trades which live off ships' business.

SHALL WE REFINE?

Obviously a great oil refining industry ought to grow up at the site of the oil yard. The same traumways which lead to the wharf should branch to the refinery or refineries. Adjoining the oil yard is an extensive vacant open ground, admirably suited for the purpose, which was purchased some time ago from the United States Government, perhaps for this very purpose. We are not at liberty yet to speak of the intentions of the Baltimore and Ohio directors in the line of trade—Is not idle; for at Canton, under the fostering auspices of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, a large refinery is in process of erection, and it is plain that Baltimore will yet take the position as an oil refining port which she formerly held to occupy as a refiner of sugar. The position will be won, too, through the same means—low rates of transportation for the crude and refined products. In connection with oil refiners, candle and dye works spring up, and a variety of interesting industries are inaugurated.

Here, then, may we begin to see in a substantial and practical way some of the fruits borne to Baltimore by the completion of the Connellsville, or Baltimore, Connellsville and Pittsburgh Railroad.

The End of the Siege.

A letter from Paris, written on the day of the armistice says: Think of the shells bursting in a hospital of three thousand bed ridden old women—a living shell-supply of three thousand old women—all to be killed so that the Government may save the lives of the poor; for there seems to be no doubt that such places were aimed at, the object being to so terrify the lower classes as to make them rise and compel the Government to surrender. This has been done everywhere. It may be war, but it is not chivalrous; for the shelling of women is worse than the fall of Paris. It was the rationing of bread—the near approach of a horrible famine—the actual disease and suffering. When the long lines of people had to form at the entrance of every bakery to get their little ration, the cry of consumption too small for a single meal; when those who went to restaurants were required to bring their own bread; when the soldier's three days' rations would scarcely make a single good meal, famine was at the door. Hunger and the horror of a famine of two millions of beleaguered people, cut off from all hope of rescue, was too great for the bravest heart to bear. The last act, the delayed, disarranged, mismanaged, perhaps, was yet desperately fought. Those who saw the fronts at first, and the heavy losses on both sides, showed that. Nothing can be said against the bravery of those at whom parry made his charge, and who met it again by midsummer. I do not see how, with decent regard to our home charities, we can deal with any other class. Our rule is, not, perhaps, to give compensation for ruined villas or the sack of detached family residences.

Important to Insurance Companies

Commissioner Pleasanton approves the decision of Collector Bailey, of Albany, in relation to the stamping of renewal receipts on fire insurance policies, which is to the following effect: That under the laws of Congress and the ruling of the Department, any receipt or instrument which operates as a renewal of a policy of insurance is subject to the same tax as the policy itself. That is, when the time for which the property is insured, or time of payment has expired, the same amount of stamps should be used as had required upon the original policy. When, however, a contract for insurance is made for a specific time, and by the terms of the policy the premium is made payable monthly, quarterly or otherwise, during such time, receipts given for such payments are not required to be stamped.

PRISON MANAGEMENT.

The Changes in the Western Penitentiary—Effects Upon the Prisoners—The Relations of Society to the Released Convict—Decrease in the Number of Prisoners—Products of Labor—Interesting Statistics.

The radical changes which have been inaugurated during the past two or three years in the management of the Western Penitentiary, together with the careful consideration of the facts and statistics embodied in the last annual report of the Board of Inspectors, than has been usually given these reports. The subject of prison reform is one which has engaged a large share of the attention of the most practical and humane minds of the country during the past few years, and gratifying inroads have been made upon the prejudices which have so long prevailed in our own State, and prevented the adoption of the more rational, economical, benevolent and merciful modifications of penal rigors, which have been engrafted, from time to time, upon the systems of other States. The changes already made are of too recent adoption to warrant a just estimate of the results; but in so far as these results have been produced and analyzed, they are in the highest degree gratifying to the Inspectors, and will serve to encourage the hearts of all advocates of prison reform.

The grand progress step made by the Inspectors of the Western Penitentiary, was from the rigid solitary system to the congregate plan. It required no little argumentation to accomplish this change, since the conviction had long ago become settled in the public mind that a convict was a person to be hidden from the face of every other human being save his keeper, and that his own thoughts were his only companions. Hence the only means necessary to his reformation. The public have gradually been induced to take a more enlightened and humanitarian view, and as the principles underlying this subject are being disseminated and understood, the rigors of the solitary system are being relaxed.

THE EFFECTS OF THE CHANGES.

The Inspectors, in the report to which we have alluded, state that they have watched the effect of the changes, both upon the prisoners inside, and the public outside, and the results have proved the wisdom of the change. The results of the examination law they speak in decided terms, as follows:

"During the past year, out of a population of 545, there were but seven who were under charge of violation of law; 109 were reported but once and 118 for more than once, and these mostly made up of prisoners who were under charge of violating the rules of the prison. The law had a very decided effect upon the actual population, as appears by the tables. Thus during the years of the war, when men were in demand, the population fell off 100, and this increased quite as rapidly after the war closed. From 764, in 1866, the number fell off to 73 in 1864. In 1865 the number was 691; in 1867, 1866; in 1868, 1866; in 1869, 1890; 1870, 1444. A number of prisoners were committed by the criminal courts to the Workhouse in this county during the last year, being a decrease for some of this decrease for 1870.

MANUFACTURES—RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES.

The Warden, Col. Wright, reports an increased product for the year, notwithstanding a diminished population. In the weaving department 163,968 yards of shirting checks, rag carpet, jeans, ticking, &c., were manufactured, and an increase of 10,000 yards over last year. In the shoe department 7,630 pairs of boots and shoes were made, an increase of 1,500 pairs over 1869. In the cigar department there was a heavy falling off in the coin, a great deal of soldier's three days' rations would scarcely make a single good meal, famine was at the door. Hunger and the horror of a famine of two millions of beleaguered people, cut off from all hope of rescue, was too great for the bravest heart to bear. The last act, the delayed, disarranged, mismanaged, perhaps, was yet desperately fought. Those who saw the fronts at first, and the heavy losses on both sides, showed that. Nothing can be said against the bravery of those at whom parry made his charge, and who met it again by midsummer. I do not see how, with decent regard to our home charities, we can deal with any other class. Our rule is, not, perhaps, to give compensation for ruined villas or the sack of detached family residences.

Net gain in Shoe Department	$2,152 61
Net gain in Weaving Department	10,062 86
Net gain in Cigar Department	194 16
Received and charged for labor	1,565 62
Received for sales of coke, tar, hogs, barrels, iron, &c	2,417 70
Received United States, support of convicts	4,602 33
Total income	$21,595 98
Due from counties for suppo t of convicts	27,988 55
Total	$49,494 83

EXPENDITURES.

For provisions, clothing, bedding, shoes, medicines, fuel, gas, water rent, &c	$29,199 61
For repairs and maintenance of buildings	3,364 09
Paid interest on borrowed money	2,319 26
Balance to working capital	4,611 74
Total	$49,494 83

STATISTICS.

The whole number of prisoners received from 1826 (the time of opening the penitentiary) till December 31, 1870, was 8,926, as follows:

White males	3,576	Colored males	399
White females	96	Colored females	55
	3,672		454—3,926
Born in Pennsylvania	1,843	Percentage	46.94
" other States	1,047	"	26.66
" Foreign Countries	1,036	"	26.40
	3,926		100.00

There were in confinement, January 1, 1870, 672. Received during the year, 144—total, 546. Discharged during the year, 171; remaining, January 1, 1871, 375. Of those discharged, there were by expiration, 5; by commutation laws, 136; pardoned by the governor, 21; pardoned by the pardon board, 1; died, 8.

The industrial relations of those now in prison are thus stated: Learned a trade before coming, 172; apprenticed and left, 33; apprenticed and served time, 67—total, 375. Parents who despise placing their children at a trade, and who may be interested to learn that over 73 per cent. of those who go to the penitentiary never learned a trade.

Of the number now in prison, 265 are single; 146 married; 21 widowers and 3 widows. Thirty-four per cent. of those committed were single. Of these 101 were sober; 108 moderate drinkers, and 136 intemperate, or seventy-three per cent. of the whole were addicted to drinking.

The former occupation of those now in prison embraces every branch, from the professions to farmers, 157; carpenters, 18; shoemakers, 13; farmers, 14; coal miners, 11; coopers, 8; engineers, 8; laborers, 8; steamboat men, 7; sailors, 7; boat men, 7; through the list.

The offences committed by the present inmates, 264 were against property, and 111 against persons. Of the former class, larceny heads the list, 196; burglary, 22; forgery, 2; receiving stolen goods, 11; robbery, 18; breaking stores and dwelling buildings, 21; forgery, 6; barring and passing counterfeit money, 9; robbing postoffices, and so on. Of the offenses against persons, 32 were for murder; 1 for murder in the second degree; 1 for manslaughter; 7 assault with intent to ravish; 4 cutting and wounding; 2 mayhem; 2 abortion, etc.

The nationalities of those now in prison, exhibit some curious phases. There is a marked disproportion between the native born and foreign, as there are 99 for one year; 37 for two years; 53 for three years; 28 for four years; 25 for five years; 19 for six years; 16 for seven years; 10 for eight years; 1 for nine years; 14 for ten years; 2 for eleven years; 1 for twelve years; 6 for fifteen years, and 5 for twenty-four years; 1 for twenty-nine years. The remainder of the 375 are for years and fractions of years between the periods given. Individually one will reach the long period of *one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven years*, and the whole sentence is four years, eight months and twenty-six days.

Some Honest Lawyers.

A correspondent of the Boston *Advertiser* says that the Ford-Bowman case, pending upon a lawyer's relation to his client is about to call from the New York Bar Association a resolution expressing its judgment upon this point, and indicating to some extent the character of suits which are not to be countenanced. The association comprises probably four or five hundred of the most eminent lawyers of the city, takes no cognizance of individual cases and offers, as a body, no protection or thing to say more directly on the subject of the responsibility of lawyers. Nevertheless, however, While lawyers may not concede that they are to be held responsible for the dishonesty of their clients, they will, we very much admirably, and is recommended as a permanent measure.

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ONE MILLION JEWS IN AMERICA.

Their Character as Educators and Citizens—Some Interesting Facts.

"No one but a Jew can commensurately appreciate the intense happiness of the Hebrew people in this country. Free America is the modern Moses who has delivered them from European bondage, perhaps far worse than the Egyptian. They have not been made to drink the bitter waters of Marah in this land; they have not thirsted in the wilderness of Shur, nor hankered after the flesh-pots. They have sped to this hospitable province, this modern 'Elim,' where there are more than twelve wells of water, and three score and ten palm trees,' and they are wanderers no more." This is the language of a clear-headed Hebrew, Mr. J. J. Noah, who has contributed to Mr. Eaton's late report on Education one of its most valuable Appendices. Ostensibly, this Appendix is an account of Hebrew Education in the United States; but it is more than this. We do not know of a better historical and social sketch of the American Jews than that which Mr. Noah has put together, nor one which comprises so much curious information within a limited space.

There are in the United States about one million resident Jews; and it is a singular circumstance that the majority of this number no longer consider a knowledge of the Hebrew language essential. On this point Mr. Noah says: "Education in the Hebrew language is now purely secondary; and it is only taught for the purpose of enabling them to participate in the various religious ceremonies which are given in Hebrew. Modern American reforms introduced in synagogue worship, do away with the exclusiveness of the Hebrew, and sermons, or lectures are now commonly preached in the English and German languages. Some reformers insist that all the services should be conducted in English or German, so that all the congregation should understand; for it is true that the per centage of Hebrews attending synagogue, and employing the Hebraic understandingly, is very small. In other words, it is evident that the Hebrew language is fast losing its importance among the Jews, it being no longer necessary to employ it hermetically, although the orthodox Israelites cling with great pertinacity to the old habits and customs, and refuse to be separated from the ancient landmarks. It is but a question of time, however, with orthodox Judaism—it must give way to the reformatory spirit of the age."

The Talmud (continues the writer) is no longer taught in Jewish schools as an exclusive study. It is referred to and interwoven with other school exercises, but is not a specialty. The Israelites do not, as heretofore, confine their children to an exclusive study of Hebrew, and of Hebrew law, at the age of five or six years, but have adopted the plan of general knowledge of Hebrew, so that they may read it fluently, even if they understand it but imperfectly, so the old law which requires the *Torah*, or the law of Moses, in the synagogue, as the first witness and exhibit of their entry into the law as the rite of manhood. The Hebrew has been heretofore wrongfully classified among the dead languages. It has never ceased, but has a living and active life. When it is considered, however, that the Hebrew youth are no longer required to be put fresh upon it as a language of conversation, it is fast going into decadence, and, like the Latin, will only serve the purposes of a learned profession."

On the general subject of Jewish education, Commissioner Eaton remarks: "The leading characteristic of this peculiar people are shown to be in a remarkable degree the result of a training at once so minute and so comprehensive as to embrace almost every act in the life of an Israelite, from the cradle to the grave. Education with him is not a thing apart as with the other nations; it is rather the companion of his whole existence. His relations to his family, to his fellows, to the synagogue, and to strangers, his habits of life, the preparation of his food, the ceremonies of his religious rites, and the duties of his social conditions centuries old. This constant education has produced a homogeneous people, whose characteristics are served under so widely varying conditions, have outlasted the most persistent and fearful persecutions. Their fondness for liberty, and their ready support of the common school system, are specially worthy the attention of foreigners who come here to perpetuate antagonisms."

One of the most praiseworthy results of Hebrew education is the effort which it makes for self-education. They keenly appreciate the idea of Plato, that, "education consists in giving to the body and the soul all the perfection of which they are susceptible." Therefore a poor Israelite will sacrifice anything to possess a book, and in his own home his children may be educated. In European countries, where it was not possible for Jewish schools, private Israelites, wherever it was permitted, contributed freely to the schools of other sects, to the end that they might secure for their own children their youth therein, even at the expense of their religious principles. Mr. Noah, in his report, says: "It is worthy of remark that, as we have professed in education, liberal laws, and unrestricted liberty, the progress and reforms of the Israelite have been commensurately achieved. It was reserved for this republic to unveil, and to destroy, the hermetic character of Jewish education. It has not been compelled to secrecy, as in mediæval and even modern times it existed in Europe. The Israelite has been thrown upon for public examination. The American Israelite understands the genius of his country, and watches with anxiety and hope the progress of American education. He is thankful for the privilege."

It is Hebrew education to insist that inasmuch as the promoting of wise and liberal government is the true aim of that body politic, Government in return, should foster and conserve it as the most important and vital to attain and to secure the greatest possible happiness to the masses. It therefore follows that prominent educational reformers among the American Jews, and that their leading men, considered essential to the well-being of their race that they should be educated, not exclusively according to the old Hebrew customs. They feel that they are citizens of this Republic, entitled to the full and liberal education, and hopeless for them to attempt to lead respectable lives—while, if given a fair chance, they might become useful citizens.

DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS.

It is much to be desired that the number in prison is no longer overcrowded, and that so far from the State requiring a third penitentiary, as was suggested some three years ago, something would be gained financially by increasing the number of prisoners here. So far as the interests of the State is concerned, there is no necessity for another prison. The war had a very decided effect upon the State population, as appears by the tables. Thus during the years of the war, when men were in demand, the population fell off 100, and this increased quite as rapidly after the war closed. From 764, in 1866, the number fell off to 73 in 1864. In 1865 the number was 691; in 1867, 1866; in 1868, 1866; in 1869, 1890; 1870, 1444. A number of prisoners were committed by the criminal courts to the Workhouse in this county during the last year, being a decrease for some of this decrease for 1870.

THE ENGLISH OUTLOOK.

The General Discontent—The Cause—New Departure and a New Policy.

[London Correspondence of New York Times.]

LONDON, January 6.—The unsettled carried in politics, the outlook is rather dark and lowering—decidedly what seamen would call nasty weather. The breeze may be only a capful of wind, and may blow itself out in the first few nights of the session; but, on the other hand, it may prove only the beginning of a storm that will break up the Cabinet. If there were no other complaints against the Government than those about which the public mind is decidedly made up, I should be disposed to agree with those sanguine Liberals who profess to be rather pleased than otherwise with the prospect of a little exhilarating excitement. Take the army question, for instance. The country is certainly very uncomfortable about the present state of our army; it wants a change, but does not know what sort of change. There is nothing more absolutely certain than this—that the army never will be reformed, and never will be efficient, so long as the present system of clerk is placed at the head of it, and the absurd custom abolished of allowing lords-lieutenant of counties to appoint the officers of the militia. It is very difficult to say that the public mind is ripe for such changes, and, logically it would be of course be absurd to object to Liberals for not doing what the Conservatives would most assuredly be still less disposed to do. But to look at our foreign policy—the sorest point of all. The truth is, that dissatisfaction with our foreign policy is at the bottom of much of the army. People are disgusted that Zigland, Egypt and Portugal, as the Irish say, should have no voice in the far greater and more important readjustment of the balance of power in 1871. But you will not find one man in a hundred who can tell you precisely what sort of balance he wants now to be established, or how it may be best established. Hence, the deficiencies of the army are seized upon as an excuse for not being ready to do anything in the matter. What kind of an army Lord Cardwell said) about a policy, when we have no means of enforcing one? Then, again, there is the controversy with Sir W. Mansfield, or any other energetic soldier, at the head of it, and had made a clean sweep of all the pashaws of the service, and got rid of the fear of being plucked of anything more really valuable than a feather, for the simple reason that the country is altogether in a fog on the subject. It is like an old gentleman who cannot make up his mind whether to go in one direction or another, and excuses himself for staying at home by cursing the stagemaker who has not got the coach ready. We have become loose from the old traditions and have got no new ones in their place. We have not decided whether to go back to feudal intervention, and not pluck enough to proclaim our resolute adhesion to the new dogma of non-interference. The opposition has no leader of any party, no politician of the slightest standing or authority will make up his mind to lead it. Some has ventured to propose any other line of policy than that which Lord Granville has followed steadily in regard to the Black Sea question, because there was only an influential minority, which blamed the declaration as to the right of the Sultan to open the straits of fortune, but, on the other hand, public opinion would certainly not have supported any Government which had gone to war with Russia on such a matter. The journalists who wrote so violently on the subject, and were, I fancy, rather egged on by the Foreign Office, altogether misrepresented public opinion in demanding a declaration of war on the question in form, and I have always held that at no time the really substantial question—that is, whether the neutralization of the Black Sea should be maintained or not—was at all hazarded as to have an opinion of any kind. These same journalists who wanted to go to war for the mere war straight away, are now equally decided in holding that nothing should be done till there is a French Government to back up, and how, I think, they are right. You may rely upon it, the Conference, for the present, will come to nothing, and might as well never have met. But although public opinion is thus distracted and befogged as to what general policy this country should adopt, there is no excuse for the Government, in one sense, but constitutes a very real and serious danger all the same. People always don't know their minds, and those who are most apt to hit out wildly right and left, and if anybody catches it will be the Government.

Savings Banks in Massachusetts—Their Number and Deposits.

The Commissioner of Savings Banks in Massachusetts has recently made his annual report to the Legislature, from which it appears that, on the 29th of October last, there were one hundred and forty savings banks in the State, eight of which were established in 1870. The whole amount of deposits in these banks at that date was $125,745,097 54, an increase during the year of $28,626,080 90, and for the last two years of $40,906,761. The whole number of depositors was 488,599, which gives an average of $277 71 to each depositor. The increase of deposits within the last four years has been 109 per cent.; of depositors sixty-four per cent., and of the average of each depositor about eight per cent. The loans upon real estate mortgages amount to about forty per cent. of all the deposits. The Commissioner thinks that if the limit of personal loans is extended, the banks should be required to set apart annually a portion of their earnings as a reserved fund to meet losses and guarantee deposits. He also thinks there is some evidence of unhealthy competition between the banks, and recommends a thorough supervision of their affairs by the Trustees.

SENATOR MORRILL, of Maine, is not so ill as has been represented, which the country will be glad to know.

SAN DOMINGO.

The Tennessee Safe in Port.

THE COMMISSION AT WORK.

What Had Been Done---What Was Intended.

Strong Feeling Favorable to Annexation--False Reports--Getting at the Facts.

From Our Correspondent Attached to the Commission.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, February 3, } Via NEW YORK, February 20, 1871. }

Arrival at Samana.

The Tennessee arrived here day before yesterday evening, but did not land formally till to-day. We had a very prosperous voyage to Samana, but as the Government has no facilities whatever for sending coal out to ships of second rate, which are obliged to lie a mile and a half off, there was a detention of six days to get off coal on the launches of the ship.

Feeling in Favor of Annexation.

The Commission spent the time in hard work, and got statements from representations of all classes. Most of these are in favor of annexation. Many of the office-holders, however, are speculative whether they will be displaced by American officers; and while they did not raise the question with the Commission, they talked freely with some others. There is no question but that annexation is a serious question whether the people would submit.

The Country Teeming with Riches.

The country is as rich as its most earnest friends have represented it. The season at present is very healthy, and the heat less oppressive than Washington summers. The people are very indolent, and the whole land seems asleep.

Land Titles at Samana.

The matter of land titles about the harbor of Samana was thoroughly investigated by the Commission, and copies of the record obtained. There is nothing whatever to show that any official of the United States is concerned in any operation of a private character in that section, but Fabens and O'Sullivan, with some associates of the former, have a lease of nearly all the water front, and for a considerable distance back, which has deep water in front of it. The grant is far below the usual rates, and the annual renewal is without regard to an increase in price. The annual consideration is $112 per year. Fabens has also imported lumber and other stores free of duty, under the plea that they were for the United States.

Characteristics of the People.

The people in that section are ignorant, and mostly live in huts. There is mixture of a half-Indian races, and a corresponding corruption of languages. The most prosperous part of the population is a negro colony which came out from Philadelphia in 1824. They now number 500, and are all thrifty.

Samana Harbor.

The harbor Samana will not admit ships of the second class. It will require a large appropriation to put the coal stations in proper condition, but it is capable of being made one of the finest in the world. The system of fortification will necessarily be nearly as extensive as that of Gibraltar. The forts in the harbor at this place except for vessels below the fourth rate. All war steamers lie in the open roadstead with banked fires.

Boundary Investigation.

The Commission is honestly arriving at a full and fair investigation. None of the members express their opinions.

Reception of the Commission by Baez.

The reception here by Baez was of a formal character, followed by a quite familiar conversation. The ceremony took place at the Executive mansion of the Republic. Delmonte, Gautier, and the Minister of War and Marine, Baez's son-in-law, met the Commissioners at the door, and escorted them to the apartment of the action of Congress, and read the following letter of authority from President Grant:

"EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, D. C., } February 2, 1871. }

"His Excellency, B. Baez, President of the Republic of San Domingo:

"SIR: In accordance with a joint resolution of the Congress of the United States, I have this day duly appointed three distinguished citizens of the United States, to wit: Hon. B. F. Wade, many years a Senator; President A. D. White, of Cornell University, and Dr. S. G. Howe, distinguished for his philanthropy, learning and service in relieving the blind and deaf, of much of the monotony of life incident to their infirmities, by opening to them the world of letters, as a commission to visit the Republic of San Domingo, and to obtain such information as may be useful to the United States, Mesrs. Noah, Raphael, Wise, Lilienthal, Lecker, Einhorn, and Isaacs, Israelites of note, and in no opposition. To enumerate the Hebrew Talmudists, divines, poets, philosophers, philologists, historians, physicians, financiers, statesmen, astronomers, physiologists, ichthyologists, and orators of ancient and modern days, would occupy too much space in a letter during the last year, Spinoza, Heine, Halevy, Herz, and Gottschalk have become as immortal as has Rachel in tragedy. In finance and commerce, Israelites are absolutely necessary, for in these essentials they lead the world.

Although the Hebrew has been persecuted, as they carefully note and give countenance to every species of legislation, every doctrine of political economy, and every public act calculated to extend liberty and to diffuse education. Nothing in this regard escapes them. Hence throughout Europe and America purchased our bonds cordially, and aided in their negotiation, thus manifesting their confidence in American securities. So it is natural that they hold fully one-fifth of our outstanding indebtedness in Europe and America.

THE GOOD NEWS.

The Intelligence of the Safe Arrival of the Tennessee Was Announced from the Chair in both Houses To-day, and was received by Senators and members with mutual joy and congratulations. The mere fact that such news had be arrived, however, did not entirely satisfy the over-anxious, and Secretary Robeson was telegraphed to for further particulars. About one o'clock this high naval official came into the Senate chamber and handed a duplicate dispatch, which he proceeded to distribute. The intelligence therein conveyed entirely satisfied the the skeptical that the vessel was entirely safe, but the excitement produced was so great that all business was suspended for a considerable time. The dispatch taken to convey the information to the public on the streets demonstrates how great has been the general apprehension on this subject. Various stores and shops, owing to the excitement, closed during the carnival, had printed placards in the windows bearing the simple legend, "The Tennessee has arrived safe." The President has been visited by a large number to-day, and congratulated upon the auspicious news.

For Additional Telegraph, see Second Page.

The Legend of St. Helier.

Off the coast of Normandy, in the bay of St. Michael, lies a group of islands, the largest of which we shall call by its ancient name of Augia. As you approach the principal harbor from the sea, about a mile from the shore, you see two rocks; the circumference of one has an old castle upon it, quite worthy of remark, as we have professed in education, liberal laws, and unrestricted liberty, the progress and reforms of the Israelite have been commensurately achieved. It was reserved for this republic to unveil, and to destroy, the hermetic character of Jewish education. It has not been compelled to secrecy, as in mediæval and even modern times it existed in Europe. The Israelite has been thrown upon for public examination. The American Israelite understands the genius of his country, and watches with anxiety and hope the progress of American education. He is thankful for the privilege."

It is Hebrew education to insist that inasmuch as the promoting of wise and liberal government is the true aim of that body politic, Government in return, should foster and conserve it as the most important and vital to attain and to secure the greatest possible happiness to the masses. It therefore follows that prominent educational reformers among the American Jews, and that their leading men, considered essential to the well-being of their race that they should be educated, not exclusively according to the old Hebrew customs. They feel that they are citizens of this Republic, entitled to the full and liberal education, and hopeless for them to attempt to lead respectable lives—while, if given a fair chance, they might become useful citizens.

DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS.

It is much to be desired that the number in prison is no longer overcrowded, and that so far from the State requiring a third penitentiary, as was suggested some three years ago, something would be gained financially by increasing the number of prisoners here. So far as the interests of the State is concerned, there is no necessity for another prison. The war had a very decided effect upon the State population, as appears by the tables. Thus during the years of the war, when men were in demand, the population fell off 100, and this increased quite as rapidly after the war closed. From 764, in 1866, the number fell off to 73 in 1864. In 1865 the number was 691; in 1867, 1866; in 1868, 1866; in 1869, 1890; 1870, 1444. A number of prisoners were committed by the criminal courts to the Workhouse in this county during the last year, being a decrease for some of this decrease for 1870.

MANUFACTURES—RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES.

The Warden, Col. Wright, reports an increased product for the year, notwithstanding a diminished population. In the weaving department 163,968 yards of shirting checks, rag carpet, jeans, ticking, &c., were manufactured, and an increase of 10,000 yards over last year. In the shoe department 7,630 pairs of boots and shoes were made, an increase of 1,500 pairs over 1869. In the cigar department there was a heavy falling off in the coin, a great deal of

TAKEN IN AND DONE FOR.

The Famous Poem of "The Heathen Chinee" Enacted in Real Life—Scene, Cleveland.

The Cleveland *Leader* of Thursday says: "A party of gamblers left this city, who are in the habit of making an easy prey of the majority of persons that come within their reach, had it played upon them on Monday and Tuesday of this week, in a way that is sad to relate. Of the shrewd, they were among the shrewdest; the least likely to throw away what had come into their hands, through a turn of lucky trumps, or to sit down and "fight the tiger," where there was not almost absolute certainty that they would emerge victorious from the contest. When such consummate adepts of

"Ways that are dark
And tricks that are vain."

Are sold by members of their own fraternity, there is a strong probability that regrets are beginning to pet their deserts, and that their preying upon each other will give honest men a short respite. In their peregrinations through the city, the sharps met two men who were of a very child-like appearance, and who innocently stated that they were merchants from Omaha, on their way east to purchase goods. The one had yielded to the entreatics of the other to stop over a day in Cleveland. The sharps were accommodating fellows, both in "business" in Cleveland, and one of them offered to bring out his team and give the travelers a sleigh ride. This offer was accepted with some hesitation, as the gentlemen thought that it was not right to give strangers so much trouble." The sharps pressed their invitation, and the afternoon was pleasantly passed. In the evening, after the strangers had partaken of an excellent supper at the expense of their genial Cleveland friends, visits were paid to the various places of amusement. At an advanced hour a pair of stairs were mounted in a brick building on the west side of Bank street, and a room was soon entered where several persons were playing cards; where a faro bank, encumbered with white and red ivory checks, was upon the table, and where every indication of a "divet" was seen at the first glance. This was astonishing to Omaha, and the two men thrust their hands deeply into their pockets, as if anxious to see whether the contents had been robbed. They looked on wildly and with trembling lips asked many questions about the game. They had never played themselves,

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, February 25, 1871.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1871.

THE COAL STRIKE.

What a blessing it would be could the evil consequences which flow from selfishness and stubbornness be confined to those persons whose heedlessness or heartlessness set them in original motion. But the poise of the universe is so delicately and subtly adjusted that the fall of an apple stirs the whole world; and the various political, social and moral concerns of life are so indissolubly interwoven and interlinked that often the momentary sorrow of one man becomes the permanent sorrow of a thousand. Some of the wide-spread, far-reaching results of the bitter feud between the Anthracite Board of Trade and the Workingmen's Benevolent Association, to which we alluded in Tuesday's COMMERCIAL, are indicated in a New York telegraphic item published in yesterday's issue. Coal had advanced in New York and Brooklyn to fifteen dollars per ton, owing partly to the long continued suspension of mining in this State, and partly to the increased freight tariff imposed by the carrying companies. We are told that this extortionate price is severely felt by the poor and working men, and that much suffering among them has ensued by reason of their inability to pay the rates demanded. Simultaneously with this statement come reports that the furnaces in the coal mining regions are suspending operations, and that business of all kinds is suffering severely in consequence of the quarrel.

So it goes. The poor man's household fires are quenched, little children shiver with cold and moan with hunger, manufactories are stopped, commerce stagnates, no one dares to venture on any enterprise, confidence is shaken, credit is impaired, and far and near and up and down the black contagion of mischief runs.

We have no objections to Trades Unions in general or to the Workingmen's Benevolent Association *in particular*. We know that wherever a number of men are congregated together engaged in the same industry that communion of interest and sentiment will sooner or later inevitably bring them into association. This remark applies with equal force to Capital as well as Labor. Capital is, indeed, a combination with itself; and whenever wisely directed such combinations, whether of the one or the other, are praiseworthy and beneficial. Nor do we think that in the particular instance under reference the fault lies wholly with the miners. Both parties appear to be equally selfish and headstrong. The miners who struck have by a most unjustifiable resort to threats and intimidation prevented such of their number as manifested a willingness to resume work from doing so; while on the other hand the combined carrying companies have exhibited an equally reprehensible spirit of intolerance and coercion in regard to certain operators who were on the point of acceding to the demands of the workingmen, by raising the costs of transportation above the then market rates of coal, and by subsequently increasing these tariffs in the ratio of the increase of coal prices. In both cases the objects have been the same, and the means used alike unwarrantable. The common purpose of each party has been to compel the other to submit to its own impositions, without any respect to the merits of the question, without any reference to the harm and suffering inflicted on hundreds and thousands of other people, and with a total denial of the rights of private judgment and liberty of personal action. Meanwhile the feud continues, the miners refuse to work on any other basis than the fluctuating and inequitable basis of 1869, advancing the men's wages when coal goes above a certain point, but not reducing them when it sinks below.

When it is considered that these coal and carrying corporations are subjected to a net loss of a million dollars for every sixty days cessation of labor, and that at least fifty thousand men are employed in and about the mines when in operation, some idea may be formed of the immense injury inflicted on the country by these constantly recurring strikes. The anthracite coal mining interest is one of the greatest among all the great industries of the State. Last year the total production was about sixteen million tons, but it is computed that the mines could have produced at least twenty-five per cent. more, had there been no strikes during that period; while no argument is needed to prove that if the miners were sure of steady employment throughout the year at fair rates, they could afford to work for less wages and yet live more comfortably and save more money than when, working at greater rates of pay, they are idle one-third of the time, subjected, in addition, to a perpetual drain on their pockets in the shape of levies to support other men on strikes.

Passing from this particular illustration to the general subject of strikes, we are unable to recall a single instance which did not result disastrously to all the parties engaged. The nine months strike of the puddlers of this city in 1869, and the mining strike of last summer, were alike utterly barren of good results. Nobody was benefited; the men lost their wages and their previous savings; the employers lost their profit and the interest on their invested capital; and the public lost in the high rates of iron and coal. So, too, the workingmen of Fall River, Mass., lost in their strike of last year nearly a million of dollars in wages—a loss which it will take years to restore—besides suspending the employment of thousands of other persons whose labor was connected with their own industry. Strikes never do any good; but invariably result in harm, not alone to the public welfare, but also to the private interests of those who set them on foot; like an ill-charged gun which, although,

> "——well aimed at duck or plover,
> Is dangerous when overcharged over,"

Some other method of solving the labor question will have to be adopted. All that is gained under the present mode is disintegration, demoralization, envy, bitterness, hatred, and lust of revenge. Was ever a man convinced of a truth by punching his head?

It is reported that MR. SEWARD is gathering materials for a book, the object of which is to show the obligations of the rest of the world to this country. There can be no doubt that the United States have, in various ways, exercised a very great, and, in some respects, beneficent influence, not only upon South America and Europe, but even upon Asia and Africa, and a book, in which the subject should be illustrated with the necessary minuteness and completeness of detail, would be exceedingly interesting and valuable. But to prepare such a work on the subject as, while raising respect for us abroad by exhibiting our excellent services and performances, would not prove injurious at home by increasing our already enormous vanity and self-conceit, would certainly demand rather peculiar qualifications in the author. Whether or not they are possessed by the eminent statesman said to be engaged in the work we do not feel qualified to decide. His powers as a patriotic panegyrist were very strikingly shown forth in an eloquent discourse delivered in the Senate shortly before the outbreak of the late war, in which he described the impressions he had received concerning the power and grandeur of his country during his then recent tour in Europe. It is, perhaps, doubtful whether he would be willing, if he were able to tone down or soften his sketches of our creditable achievements and worthy traits of character by holding up the dark side of our history, and by a candid delineation of our national faults and shortcomings.

We have been led into this strain of remark by the statement and the suggestion of an American correspondent respecting MR. PILATTE, a French gentleman well known by reputation, if not personally, to many of our readers. He has often visited this country, with the result of having become an intense Republican and admirer of American institutions. He is now described as "probably the most influential citizen of Nice, if we except such as are in the highest official position." Editor of a newspaper in Nice, "he does not hesitate to speak publicly the most unwelcome, the most mortifying truths, when he conceives that there is need of so doing." A Protestant preacher in Paris having quoted with approbation the declaration that "the destruction of France would be the blinding of the world;" MR. PILATTE, criticising the discourse, rebuked the preacher and those who applauded him, in the following terms:

> "Prolonged acclamations greeted these words. We are not surprised at this, but * * * what shall we * * * the final declaration which proclaims France * * * of humanity. * * * Great by the gifts * * * as received, little by the use which she * * * them, France is a thousand leagues from the character which these eloquent hyperboles assign to her. Monarchical and Catholic, she suppressed the reformation; revolutionary, she knew not how to establish liberty; Voltarian, she lost the religious sentiment; imperialist and materialist, she has not known how to retain either her self-respect or the respect of other nations. Hitherto the lights which she has shed upon humanity have resembled those fireworks which, having shone brilliantly for an instant, leave the night darker than before."

The American traveler, a citizen of Cincinnati, from whom we borrow the quotation, has no doubt that, in his repeated visits to our country MR. PILATTE learned to detest our admiration of ourselves as well as to admire of our institutions. "In the light of our national vanity he learned to appreciate that his own people." The suggestion seems to us very probable, as no intelligent foreigner who visits our shores ever fails to be disgusted with the trait, however much he may be pleased with our government and laws. As it is well understood that MR. PILATTE, by his denunciation of French vanity, as well as by his advocacy of republicanism, is rendering most valuable service to his countrymen, Americans may justly claim, it appears, some share in the work. Through him we are laying the French under obligations. The instance is certainly worthy of the attention of MR. SEWARD, or whoever is disposed to undertake the much desiderated book, illustration of American influence on mankind.

M. THIERS, historian of France, has been elected Provisional President of France. We sincerely hope that this choice will eventuate in the successful solution of the grave problems which confront France to-day. He is a practical statesman—clear-headed, shrewd, sagacious, energetic, cool, wary and of universally acknowledged capacity. Embodying a curious admixture of liberal and conservative principles—a champion of the people's rights and the upholder of Papal temporal authority—neither a radical nor an imperialist, we think that if any one can fuse into a homogeneous mass the scattered elements of French national unity, and give to them intelligent direction and purpose, he is the man.

But we are by no means so sanguine as our contemporaries appear to be of a peaceful reconstruction of her future government, the re-establishment of internal order, and the development of her industrial activities, which they glowingly predict as the fruitage of this election. We hope for it with all our heart. We trust that under his leadership France may move forward through all the gates to prosperity to the accomplishment of all noble aims and destinies. M. THIERS is a statesman, and we are glad to observe that he has called around him a cabinet of able men to assist him in the discharge of his intricate and delicate duties. But it is not talent which is to save France in the present emergency. It is good sense, patriotic self-sacrifice, and comprehension of her moral needs. The remedy for her distress does not lie with the President or his Cabinet, but with the people themselves. The fact of his election is a hopeful sign, in that it indicates the existence of a spirit of courageous contrition among the people who a few months ago derided him and laughed him to scorn. We do not believe Frenchmen to be lacking in sincerity or in depth of feeling. The central defect of their character appears to consist in the absence of that steadfast constancy and immutable resolve which underlies all lasting achievements and progress. France is always intense, even in her frivolities. Touch her with fire and she blazes like a brush heap; but she does not kindle slowly and burn steadily, like a green hickory log. In this statement we except, however, her revenge. Like banked fires, this quality appears never to die out.

And we are fearful lest this spirit of rankling resentment should permeate and sour her now. If, under all her processes of restoration and rehabilitation, there lie the incentive of retaliation for the humiliation inflicted by Prussia, she will miss the meaning of the whole lesson which has been taught her. Bitterness and longing for revenge may be perfectly natural, but they are not the means whereby to build up a helpful and noble France. Should she act and choose with a view of inviting future war or making it inevitable, such a proceeding will vitiate the very sources of her strength. No great nation ever yet arose out of a desire for revenge. Passion has its grandeurs and sublimities, but they are powerless to evoke order out of chaos. Poor France has indeed suffered greatly, but from first to last during all this dreadful havoc her worst foes have been those of her own household. The dismembership of her territory is not an irreparable calamity. But the loss of her moral and mental equipoise would be. Whether France shall ultimately elect to serve under a monarchy or a republic, is of comparatively minor importance. But let her *serve*.

In the early stages of their first or great revolution the French, threatened by a coalition of all Europe for their punishment or subjugation, and very much thrown upon their own resources for the warlike agencies of defense, were compelled to apply their natural ingenuity and scientific aptitudes with a degree of zeal and energy which led to important results, after wards available in the arts of peace. Agriculture and other industrial pursuits were directly advanced by the enforced cultivation of the arts of destruction. During the recent siege of Paris we have had, from time to time, hints more or less definite or vague concerning wonderful inventions made by the besieged, and which, when perfected and applied, were expected to produce a frightfully destructive effect upon the enemy. We have also had hints of astonishing chemical discoveries in what may be comprehensively called the culinary art, by which substances not ordinarily eaten or edible, could be rendered agreeable to the palate and nutritious to the human system. Most of these intimations may have been and likely were, mere boasts or more pretenses to deceive or to irritate the besiegers. We may, however, trust that they were not all like GAMBETTA's bulletins of victory, artifices of war. No men in the world are more capable of important practical discoveries and inventions than the savans of Paris, and with such incentives to exertion as pressed upon them during the siege, it is really not improbable that they will be found to have made valuable additions to the sum of human knowledge, and to "the arts that minister to man's estate," while toiling merely in the interests of war. For one thing it appears certain that the art of aerial navigation has made a positive advance during the siege of Paris. The frequent practice of the art during that time might be supposed to have effected somewhat in giving confidence to the aeronaut. But while the power to direct the balloon is wanting, no amount of experience can be of much value, and only people of extraordinary intrepidity, or who are impelled by very powerful motives to incur the risk, will commit themselves to the mercy of the winds and the heights in so frail a vehicle. Well, it is claimed that under the stimulus of the siege a method of guiding the balloon has at last been proved, if not invented. The inventor is Admiral LABROUSSE, of the French navy, and there is now before us an extract from the *Compte-rendu* of the Academy of Sciences of January 9, in which the opinions of several members concerning the plan are reported. They pronounce the problem of balloon direction solved. The first experiment was the celebrated ELIE DE BEAUMONT, who declared the invention a success, in consequence of which people could in future, with ease, make voyages out of besieged Paris and back again. M. FAYE, another famous scientist, testified, with equal assurance, to the efficiency of Admiral LABROUSSE's screws (helices), and congratulated himself and his hearers that, while the first balloon that ever arose went up from French soil, the first balloon susceptible of direction set out from Paris besieged—that is to say, the very heart of invaded France. LABROUSSE, it seems, thought of his directing screws many years ago, but was first enabled to develope and prove the feasibility of the idea during the siege.

ALMOST the same flash of electricity which acquaints us with the interesting fact that the San Domingo Commissioners are engaged acquiring a knowledge of certain facts which are supposed to underlie as principal supports the annexation of San Domingo, brings intelligence that Minister SICKLES, at Madrid, is "prospecting" for the acquisition of Cuba—a proposition, we are assured, that has come to be regarded by the Spanish government with more "patience" than formerly. And, curiously enough, it begins to be talked that possibly, as the result of the Joint High Commission, more territory in the North may be acquired from Great Britain by the United States. Really, believers in the doctrine of our "manifest destiny" have reason to be encouraged, especially as Mexico is ripening rapidly.

MUCH interest attaches to the case of Father FARRELL in the minds of all who have taken note of the progress of the affair. A most sincere, industrious, well informed and in every sense worthy and respectable priest, he made no secret of his joy in the consummation of Italian unity, and uttered a decided protest against the interposition of the secular powers for the restoration of the Pope's temporal reign. In pursuing this course the Father seemed to walk alone, that is uncountenanced and unsupported by a single one of his brother clergymen of the Catholic church. All Protestants were surprised. In view of the perfectly well known policy and discipline of the church, few of them even hoped that the position of dissent assumed by the Pastor of St. Joseph's parish, would be tolerated by his ecclesiastical superiors. All, or nearly all, confidently expected that he would be punished with greater or less severity, and, therefore, no surprise was created by the announcement, made a few days ago, that Father FARRELL had been removed from the important charge which he had so long occupied with credit to himself and advantage to his parishioners. Though not surprised by the event, the newspaper men, the Protestant public in general, and not a few Catholics gave free expression to the indignation excited by an act so arbitrary and so inconsistent with American notions touching freedom of thought and personal independence. A state of feeling which amounted to positive excitement in the community of New York was the result, and the consequence is that Father FARRELL, for the present at any rate, remains in his parish. Naturally, perhaps, some mystery still rests upon the adjustment of the difficulty. We are told that it was reached through "confidential interviews between Father FARRELL and the Archbishop." It is distinctly understood that the former has made no retraction of his language, or surrender of his convictions on the subject of Italian liberty and the sacredness of popular rights, while it is equally well understood that the ecclesiastical dignitary has not renounced a particle of his authority. The simple explanation we suppose to be that the Archbishop issued his mandate of removal in temporary forgetfulness of his geographical latitude. The incident is significant of several things, not the least important of which is the influence of Protestant opinion even upon Catholic dignitaries in this country. So it seems at present. We are, however, by no means sure that the affair has yet reached a conclusion. On the contrary, we rather expect that when the excitement caused by the archbishop's act shall have been quite forgotten, Father FARRELL will be found worthy of promotion to some quieter field of labor than St. Joseph's Parish.

ONE of the most beneficent measures of an Administration distinguished from the beginning for wise and liberal thoughtedness, consisted in securing the appointment of the Joint High Commission established to inquire into the differences between the United States and England. Not alone does it embrace the amicable adjustment of the difficulties which have so long operated to provoke and irritate and estrange the two countries, but it also promises a real advance in the development of the principles of true international comity. It reaches far beyond the *Alabama*, or the dispute on the fisheries. It broadens into the future, and seeks to establish a sure basis for friendly international negotiations and reciprocities, where as yet all is selfishness and shifting sand. It looks in the direction of peace and human brotherhood, and the time wherein "the war-drum throbs no longer and the battle flags are In the parliament of man, the federation of the world."

And yet it is a matter of grave doubt whether it will be allowed fair play. The motives of GRANT in proposing it and of England in agreeing to it are impugned. Extraneous and irrelevent questions are, if possible, to be sprung upon it. Conditions to which the commonest self-respect will render it impossible for England to accede are sought to be imposed on her at the outset of the discussion. In every way that ingenuity can suggest the anti-administrationists are trying to hamper and embarrass the Commission, even before it has met in formal session. Why? For no other reason under the sun than that President GRANT should not have the credit of settling the *Alabama* claims. Well: we have nothing to say relative to the opposition of the Democracy in this matter: their action has at least the merit of consistency. But as regards a certain distinguished Senator we respectfully propound the question whether scholarship and statesmanship and opinionativeness can, after all, really make a man the center of the solar system?

IT IS dangerous to look at Williamsburg, Brooklyn, girls now-a-days, for any young man caught doing so is suspected at once of being that terrible fellow that has been going about stabbing divers and sundry females at the street corners in the gloaming. Last Sunday afternoon the children of a certain part of the city were enjoying themselves on the ice in the streets, when a quiet young German appeared among them and walked about seeing the sport. Soon some began to fancy that he only looked at the girls, and as this notion spread the crowd increased, and all staring intently at the stranger. Presently he became excited at being so closely watched, and, when he saw a policeman looking at him, he turned and ran with a hundred men in full pursuit. As he fled the crowd gained upon him, until at length he burst into a house, and begged the woman to save him from the angry mob. So she shut him down into the cellar, but when the police came yielded him to them. The man stoutly denies that he is the dangerous creature that he is taken for, but unless he can clearly prove his innocence the good people of Brooklyn, E. D., are likely to lynch him. So great is the excitement reported to exist over this affair that every person of suspicious appearance who is seen is closely watched. It was only two weeks ago that a young man of good character came near being murdered by a crowd that took him to be the stabber. But whatever may be the fate of this man, the circumstances of his flight and pursuit give a pretty sketch of Sunday sports in the City of Churches.

ADAM SMITH wrote of "the wealth of nations" and knew nothing about saving his own income. ADAM SMITH knows nothing about the wealth of nations, but understands perfectly well how to increase his own income. ADAM SMITH was the father of the science of political economy in its relations to public affairs. ADAM SMITH is ignorant of anything like public economy, but is acquainted with the "ropes" for private acquisition. ADAM SMITH, the first, lived and wrote in England a century ago. ADAM SMITH, the second, lives in Chicago and works in the Illinois Legislature as a skillful member of the "Third House." The second ADAM has induced the canal trustees to lease to him for a number of years the "ninety-foot strip" for sixty miles on either side of the canal, which passes through the city. The municipality has expended $2,500,000 in deepening the canal right here and giving it the only value it possesses, that of being a considerable addition to the harbor capacity of the city. The Trustees seem to have some idea of the nastiness of this big "job," for they kept all information of the lease from the public until it was consummated. We should not blame the Chicago people if they should put a profane emphasis on the last syllable of SMITH's Christian name, when they speak of him.

IN the Senate debate on the Legislative Appropriation bill, under consideration last Monday, General FRANK P. BLAIR furnished a new page in the history of the BLAIR family, by asserting that upon the outbreak of the rebellion every member of MR. LINCOLN'S Cabinet was in favor of surrendering to the rebels the public forts and property, with the sole exception of Postmaster General BLAIR, on whose energetic protest the idea was abandoned. The honorable Senator does not enlighten us as to his opinion of this action on the part of his brother, but from the fact that he is himself now making a desperate effort to surrender not simply the public forts but the entire control of national affairs into the same hands, we infer that he is heartily ashamed of this particular leaf in the family record, and determined if possible, to wipe out the dishonor.

THE Ex-Confederate General JOHN B. MAGRUDER died on Saturday last at Houston, Texas. He was not distinguished for any remarkable successes during the war, but sometime after its close he took a terrible revenge on the people of the Northern States. He went to lecturing.

IN its reports of the Washington Carnival, all the New York dailies have appreciative remarks relative to the wooden pavement over which the jollity arose. None of them, however, award to the Washingtonians the full credit which they deserve. Public improvements in other cities are often the result of suggestions and ideas gained from outside sources; whereas the good people of the capital have paved their favorite avenue *entirely out of their own heads*. This creditable illustration of the extent of their intellectual resources should not be overlooked.

THE Pittsburgh *Post* asserts "on unquestioned authority that General NEGLEY never delivered that speech or any other against the income tax," which he has been at much pains and expense to have printed and distributed among his constituents, as having been delivered by him in the House of Representatives on the 10th day of February, 1871, "on the bill to repeal the income tax." The charge is made with sufficient explicitness to be worthy of attention, and if an explanation can be made it certainly should be forthcoming without any unnecessary delay.

WENDELL PHILLIPS, in his address before a Newark (N. J.) literary society, a few evenings since, referred to political corruption as follows: "The greatest revenge a defeated candidate for the United States Senate could take would be *in going to the house of his successful rival and telling his daughter of the means by which her father obtained his election.*" This is a novel mode of taking revenge, but who will say that in practice it would not be terrible?

GARRETT DAVIS of Kentucky, who occupies a seat in the United States Senate, the other day explained what probably has long been a question with many people; that is, how it was possible for a man so persistently and for so long a time as he has done it, to make a fool of himself. He said that he never subscribed for newspapers, cared nothing for what they said and never read them. The explanation is complete.

BOSTON CORBETT, who was canonized for his heroism in shooting a cripple through a crack in a barn, is holding forth in Philadelphia.—*N. Y. World.*

And the paper whose teachings rendered possible the assassin who sneaked up behind "the cripple's" victim and shot him in the presence of his wife and friends, is holding forth in New York.

SPANISH affairs are not altogether lovely under the new King. The latest letters from Madrid report that the administration can only concern itself with trivial affairs, the appointment of minor officers and the like, while neglecting important matters. No steps have been taken to suppress the La Poria band of robbers, who have plundered in the capital for the last two years, while their acknowledged leader, Buenaventure of the royal palace, retains his office. Scores of the press have been thrown into the prisons are said to be full of journalists and directors of newspapers hostile to the Government. The habeas corpus conceded by the Constitution is a dead letter, and the most outrageous judicial imprisonment takes place just as frequently at present as previous to the revolution. The clergy receive neither their salaries nor the indemnity which is due them for the estates of which they have been dispossessed. The state of siege continues in the Basque provinces in consequence of the rebellion which prohibits it for more than three months. In short, illiberal and reactionary advisers seem to have control of the King. Even the national finances, which should be the first care, are daily getting into worse condition. The government pays only a portion of the interest due on the consolidated three per cents, and finds itself forced to refuse money to the holders of coupons and obligations due on the 31st of December, and on the same extended to school at all, and that last issue of ninety millions at the rate of eighty, when they are quoted only at that of seventy-three on the Stock Exchange. To procure the sum necessary for the payment of the coupons of the three per cents, the minister of finance has had a draft drawn on the Spanish Committee of Finance in London, bills for £400,000, at four and six months from the 31st December, 1870, giving eighty-three millions of Treasury bonds as guarantee for them. Besides this M. FIGUEROLA has put on a tax of seven per cent. on the securities in the hands of the discounting bankers, as well as one and three-fourths per cent. commission. Still it seems that the last loan of nine hundred millions is not enough, and in May a grand petition for a fresh loan will be introduced into the new Cortes.

ON Sunday morning St. Joseph's Catholic Church, New York, was crowded to hear Dr. Preston pronounce the correctness of the rumors of the removal of the parish priest, the Rev. Father Farrell. The apprehensions of all were removed when Father Farrell himself delivered the discourse, having said in the early mass that he had not resigned, and am to be removed." He also said: "In no one will you find a more sincere adhesion to the doctrinal decisions of the church, whether promulgated through her general councils or by the Holy See," and that it would be the height of presumption to suppose what may be my opinions in matters where the Catholic faith leaves us free, that any one should interpret any word or any act of mine in a sense contradictory to the teaching of the Church of God, which has my love and my devotion." The concluding remarks were: "There is no incompatability between religion and true liberty, any more than there is between religion and true science. A man may be perfectly free from the slavery of sin, and worship enthusiastically before the shrine of liberty. While loving my religion more than life, I will ever, under the guidance of that religion, hate tyranny, oppression, injustice, and wherever my sympathies may lead me, shield the oppressed, the afflicted, and the wronged, the world over." It is said that when Father Farrell read in the newspapers that he was removed, he wrote to Archbishop McCloskey, asking whether there was any foundation for the report. In reply the Archbishop warmly invited Father Farrell to visit him at his own house, and he immediately complied with the request. The Archbishop not only told him that the rumors of his removal were false, but assured him that he had no intention of removing him.

IN 1849 London had a daily supply of 44,000,000 gallons of water. The supply now amounts to 96,000,000 gallons, and eight companies are in the field. There is considerable anxiety about the future supply, and various plans are before the Parliamentary Commission. Mr. Bateman, the engineer who constructed the Glasgow Water Works, proposes to supply London with 222,000,000 gallons of water daily, from the western slopes of the mountains of Central Wales, at a distance of some two hundred miles, and at a cost of £11,400,000, or some $57,000,000. Messrs. Hemans & Hassard propose to supply London with 250,000,000 gallons of water daily from the lake country of Cumberland. Their project is to supply some large towns on the route with an aggregate of 50,000,000 gallons of water daily, and thus diminish the cost to the capital. A hundred miles is necessary to carry this work, and the whole length would be about two hundred and seventy miles. The cost is estimated at £12,500,000.

THE London *Times'* correspondents with the German army and in Germany seem to think that Bismarck's real purpose is to restore the Napoleonic dynasty. A writer from Versailles says that the Germans attribute the further delay in the peace to what will be the restoration of the Empire. A Berlin correspondent, who has seemed well advised as to German plans, intimates that if the French Assembly will not make peace on the conditions offered, the 400,000 French prisoners-of-war in Germany will be marched to Paris with Louis Napoleon or Napoleon IV. Napoleon III., who persists in his abdication of all authority, and who regards himself merely as the real Government of France, will spend his remaining years in a dignified retirement on neutral territory, and France may accept the youthful Emperor under a regency as she best compromise that can be made.

It is pertinently asked why do the Germans keep up the imperial state at Wilhelmshohe, if they consider their captive to be a dethroned monarch?

"ASSUME a virtue if you have it not." On Sunday, in accordance with the verdict of the Ecclesiastical Courtwhich tried him, the Rev. Mr. Cheney, rector of Christ's Church, Chicago, was formally suspended from the ministry by the Bishop of the diocese. The offense of Mr. Cheney consisted in his omission of the word "Regeneration" from the baptismal service. We cannot now bring to mind any city which needs regenerating as greatly as does Chicago, and we do not feel like blaming it for inflicting on the Shibboleth. To have the reputation of being rich is sometimes almost as valuable as real wealth. It brings credit, you see.

A Florence letter says that if we send many more distinguished admirals and generals to Europe, there must be sent also only rich men to represent us at the capitals of these foreign States. If a man of note from the United States can be got to go, wherever it may be, it is the opportunity furnished for the reunion of a variety of nationalities, represented in great part by handsome young men looking after American wives. A good looking young Italian with titles, have learned that American girls with rich papas are captivated by the titles, if not the good looks and polished manners.

THE combined net profits of nine Marine Insurance Companies for the last year were $2,847,141 02. These are the Atlantic Mutual, Mercantile Mutual, Great Western, Orient Mutual, Pacific Mutual, Sun Mutual, Commercial Mutual, New York Mutual, and the Union Mutual. The highest on the list is the Atlantic, and the lowest the Union, the former netting $1,654,000 99, and the latter $59,029 90. The average was $316,349.

PROFESSOR LANGLEY, of the Pittsburgh Observatory, who in official capacity accompanied the expedition to the South of Europe, under the auspices of the Superintendent of the United States Coast Survey, to observe the late eclipse, has returned home in good health. The trip, though arduous in some respects, he speaks of as affording many compensations in the field of science, with facts or recreation and a number of the principal cities to which dying visits were made on the homeward journey.

LAWYERS will take warning by the fate of one of their number who brought suit in the New York Supreme Court to recover commissions largely in excess of the amount paid him for his services, and was beaten by his own testimony. On the question of extra allowance Judge Barnard granted $10,000 in allowances against the litigous lawyer, and in doing so stated that he should avail himself of every opportunity to discourage suits having no justifiable cause of action.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *World*, writing on political prospects and events in the northwest, says "the field is white; Democracy needs only good sense to gather a harvest." This is utter heartlessness. Only the most inhuman cruelty would make sport of feeble-mindedness, or taunt a friend with his infirmity.

IN 1870 the foreign loans introduced into the London market amounted to 61½ millions sterling, of which 28 millions have been paid up. The amount of capital offered by new public companies is only 14½ millions, and it is doubtful if even anything like this amount has been actually subscribed by the public. The borrowers are from every quarter, being as follows: Alabama, Buenos Ayres, Chilian, Egyptian, French, Honduras, Massachusetts, Nicaragua, North German, Peruvian, Roumanian, Roumanian iron bridges annuity, Russian, Spanish (quicksilver), Tasmanian. The highest interest offered is by Honduras, ten per cent for £2,500,000, the bonds selling at 80. The largest loan was the Russian, five per cent., £12,000,000, also placed at 80. Four hundred and fifty pounds of Alabama eight per cent. sold at 94½, while £619,800 of Massachusetts five per cents brought 87. Curiously enough the Tasmanian six per cents, £1,000,000, brought par, and the next highest were the Japanese 9 per cents, £1,000,000, which sold for 98 per cent. of their face. Of companies trying to place capital stock, twelve telegraph companies, with £4,280,000 authorized capital, made the heaviest divisible offering. Nineteen financing and trading companies are next on the list, followed by six railway, thirty-four mining and five insurance companies. These statistics are interesting, as giving a view as to the disposition on the part of the wealth which concentrates at London for investment.

ONE of the best points in the last annual message of President Grant was his recognition of the fact that we must cultivate closer relations with the South American countries, and his urging that in the future we must extend our commerce to the countries south of us. In regard to this, we learn from the New York *Bulletin* that since the close of the war in which Brazil and the Argentine Republic were allied against Paraguay, the trade between New York and the Brazilian ports, which has been seriously diminished during the progress of the long contest, has recuperated to an extent that is surprising. On December fifty-three sailing vessels in port at Pernambuco, and in the month preceding thirty-five had cleared to foreign ports, many of them to New York and Philadelphia. On the same date fifty-eight vessels were in port at Bahia, and the clearances to foreign ports, a good share of them American, were eighteen. These vessels were laden with cotton, coffee, cocoa, wood (rosewood and other fine qualities), hides, tobacco and piassaba. The vessels that cleared from Pernambuco carried general cargoes of the same goods, with the addition of considerable sugar. Flour, lard, petroleum, paper and crackers constitute the staple articles we export to Pernambuco and Bahia, and the cities of Bahia, that rise terrace upon terrace, are two parties. The figures on all classes of commodities, both of export and import, between New York, Pernambuco and Bahia show an augmented and an increasing trade.

MR. A. T. STEWART'S gift for the starving French is 4,000 barrels extra State, New York flour, costing $7 25 per barrel. The American bark Hunter will carry the cargo, and as an exception to appearance of freight, which is paid in consideration of the praiseworthy fact that Mr. Stewart insisted that the flour should go in one of our own vessels, and not in a foreign bottom. This is the first instance of assistance in the Pacific stores, Brooklyn. The San Francisco gift of $10,000 in gold swells to over $95,000, the amount disbursed through the New York Committee on French Relief. Boston and Baltimore and Philadelphia has been aroused to organize an attempt to be as liberal as her wealth and the necessities of the case demand. Pittsburgh remains one of the few cities making no systematic effort to relieve the sufferings of the starving people of France. It has been left to individuals to initiate and conduct any measures of participation in this grand charity that may reflect credit upon our city. The O. B. Doud Dramatic Association have secured Library Hall and volunteered their services for a performance in behalf of the sufferers, and to the French Relief Fund. Miss Lydia Thompson's troupe and Manager Beamer offer the gross proceeds of the performance of "Sindbad, the Sailor," at the Opera House, to-morrow afternoon, to the same fund. These liberal offers deserve a hearty public response, and indeed it will not be creditable to our people if they do not.

WHILE the million dollars which New Jersey has received from the sale of riparian lands is about to be put in jeopardy by suits on the parts of the owners of the contiguous lands to recover the amounts received from such sales, the Legislature is considering a proposition to use the moneys for the use of free schools. That such an appropriation would be wise is very true, especially in view of the New Jersey school statistics for 1869, we find that twenty per cent. of the children of school age are in the state attended to school at all, and that only sixty-six per cent. attended the public schools. There were at that time 696 districts in which the schools were wholly free, and 634 in which they were appropriated in part by tuition fees collected from the pupils. Dr. Hall, the State superintendent, asks the appropriation of a certain fixed proportion of these monies for the establishment and maintenance of a classical school devoted to a higher standard of culture than the public schools, in every county of the State. The number of counties is twenty-one, and Dr. McCosh believes that with that number of classical schools, free to all comers, in vigorous operation, the educational system of the State would compare favorably with that of the States of the Union. Undoubtedly, but it would seem wiser to provide common schools, before elaborate attempts at classical education of the people shall be made.

A somewhat remarkable and suggestive spectacle occurred the other day in Washington, which is curiously illustrative of the liberalizing tendencies of the age. It was a meeting of the Washington bar, called for the purpose of taking action for the family of the late Chief Justice Taney, who are in destitute circumstances. Democrats and Republicans, Secessionists and Abolitionists, were gathered together to concert measures for the sustenance of the children of the man who was the author of the most infamous judicial decision against human rights recorded in modern times. Men who in the great contest which his decision had helped to precipitate, led the vanguard of liberty, uttered eulogies on his private character, and subscribed liberally to relieve his necessities, and noble the steadfast following of a right principle will make a man. We are glad to record these instances of broad and gracious humanity. Upon the heats and fevers of fashion and politics they fall with ingrate comfort. Better the one cent cigar of Santo Domingo with a new moon hay; since they show that, in spite of all external differences and discordances, there is a point of junction whereat each can make himself known and felt to the other, understanding and understood. Not with words, but with deeds are possible need any one despair of the race.

NEAL DOW turns himself aside for a moment from his cogitations upon temperance to tell Americans how it is England is now and has been for years swindled by paying money upon forged indorsements. The plan is a simple one. It consists solely in drawing a pen mark across the face of a bill obliquely, from left to right. He says it is a sign everywhere understood in England, that payment is not made only to a person known to the party upon whom the bill is drawn. Checks, drafts, bills of exchange, postoffice orders, notes of hand, indeed, papers of all kinds, requiring or authorizing the payment of money, if crossed in this way, are absolutely safe from the danger of being paid to any other person not properly authorized to receive the money. The crossing of papers in this manner is a daily practice in England, among business men, and in all commercial affairs. Any paper so marked, however valuable, is worthless in the hands of one who finds or steals it. A bank check, for five pounds or any other sum, so marked, if lost, need not be advertised, nor is it necessary to notify the bank. It is by that oblique line canceled, unless presented by some one known personally to the bank as the proper party to receive payment.

THE New Orleans *Bulletin* thinks that the straight road to diversity of home production lies in the production of only one thing—cotton. It quotes approvingly from a pamphlet of Wm. M. Pinckard, who says: "When cotton declines to ten cents, there will be planted much more extensively, and planters will make hay of the grass that cumbers their roads and fields, instead of buying from Indiana Yankees. And when cotton further declines to six and eight cents, it will be found that hogs, cattle, sheep, horses, and even poultry can be raised in such abundance that the stealing of the darkies will not make an impression. Then it will be worth one's while to raise corn, and the planter will be lavish without stint—the milk, butter, eggs, ham, etc., which now reach them rarely through second, third, and fourth hands. 'Ha, how differs it!' when we remember the home would be with. If raising other things than cotton is such a good thing, where's the profit in waiting until you lose money on cotton at six cents a pound before you try to produce those other things?"

IN 1853, the General Assembly of Illinois passed a law regulating foreign insurance companies in the transaction of their business within the State. This law is in purpose and in many details similar to the act now pending in the Pennsylvania Legislature, and which has been made the special order in the Senate for next Thursday. For this reason a certain local interest attaches to the decision of the Illinois Supreme Court on Friday last that this law is not only under the State but the national constitution, and that therefore a State has the power to prohibit insurance companies incorporated in other States or counties from transacting business in the State unless it fully complies with all regulations the State may make. The case was one wherein the Cincinnati Mutual Health Insurance Company sought to recover the amount on a premium note made by Rudolph Rosenthal. As the company had not complied with any part of the Illinois law, the Court held that it could not recover upon any debts due to it in the transaction of any insurance business transacted before compliance with the State law.

THE story comes from Washington that before both governments agreed to the appointment of a joint high commission, it was arranged between Mr. Fish and Sir Edward Thornton as a preliminary the ais of negotiation that the British Government would agree to pay from fifteen to twenty-two millions of dollars and cede British Columbia to the United States in consideration of the Alabama claims. As an offset to the money matters, however, the counter claims of British subjects would come in, and some think there will be no chance to get British Columbia, because these claims will be so great. Yet it is asserted that the Senate will ratify no treaty which does not secure to us this territory.

MESSRS. HENRY A. JONES, THOS. F. ECKERT, C. D. Dumont, John A. Williamson and Samuel Gamage, have been incorporated as "The Iron Steamboat, Steamship and Barge, Building Company of Cincinnati," with $250,000 capital stock, for the purpose of building iron vessels on the plan of Captain Boardman's boat, the "John T. Moore." It is proposed to lease one of the best dockyards in the city, and commence operations at once under the management of Captain A. O. Pittsfield, the builder of the "Moore."

THE directors of the Philadelphia Academy of Music are extremely discriminating in their views of morals and propriety. First they refused the building to Senator Revels on account of his color; second to Opera Bouffe Company; and in the third place have leased it for the term of six weeks to the managers of the Black Crook, one of the most objectionable, therefore best patronized, performances ever placed on the stage.

A NEW YORK letter significantly says: A peculiar feature in real estate operations this week has been extensive purchases of property in Henry, Rutgers, Ludlow, and other streets on the east side of the city, by prominent parties connected with the city government. As a new up-town steam railroad has been talked of as one of the certainties of the future, it is surmised that these operations are the shadows before of that coming event.

ST. DOMINGO.

THE ISLAND AND PEOPLE.

SOME THINGS SEEN BY JOURNALISTS ON SAMANA HARBOR.

The correspondence from San Domingo is about the most interesting reading of the day. Col. McMichael furnishes the Philadelphia *North American* with one of the most val

WASHINGTON.

GREAT DAY IN THE HOUSE

Debate on the Deficiency Appropriation Bill—Singular Personalities—Hayti Bitterly Opposed to the Annexation of San Domingo, &c., &c.

The Deficiency Bill—Heated Debate.

The session of the House to-day was an extraordinary one. Some of the older members say they remember no session of such sustained and terrible hand-to-hand fighting. It began immediately after the reading of the journal, and continued almost without respite until six o'clock. Some of the strongest men in the House engaged in the fray, and several suffered severe punishment. The offensive appropriation bill was called up under the new order carried through by Mr. Dawes. The items first in order were appropriations for the New York and Boston postoffices, and Farnsworth sent to the clerk's desk to be read the charge that General Butler was interested in granite contracts for those buildings. Fitch said there was no evidence against the member from the Fifth Massachusetts district sustaining the charges. Butler took no part in this controversy. This was an item of twenty-five thousand dollars for the purchase and repair of furniture of public buildings was reached.

Farnsworth now returned to the attack, saying thirty thousand dollars had been expended for mirrors for the Treasury Department, some of which had been loaned to grace the residences of members of Congress, and two of them had been sent to loaned to decorate the mansion of a distinguished member had never got back to the Department. Butler from the Democratic side gave him an opportunity to designate with sufficient clearness that General Butler was the gentleman meant. Butler then took the floor, and a very acrimonious passage of words took place. Butler explicitly denying the charges. These charges were repeated both the charges previously made circumstantially, openly naming Mr. Butler, and affirming that they had been proved and could be proved again. Mr. Dawes moved to stop the debate, and the motion was carried with Mr. Butler's assistance.

Using the Army for Influencing Elections.

Soon afterwards the items regarding the army came up, and there occurred another somewhat bitter debate. Brooks, of New York, demanding to know both the deficiencies occurred, and making the usual Democratic protest against the alleged employment of the army for influencing elections. The most important feature of this conflict was the speech of Mr. Logan. He said he was of opinion, and would frankly utter it, that the President had no authority in the premises for the preservation of order in any State or city in time of peace, except on requisition of the Legislature or Governor, and if anybody had done so it was clearly wrong. He then went on to protest against the impulse of the Northwestern States in the matter of appointment of representatives, charging that the member of the Judiciary Committee was carrying out their behests in the matter, which he ought to report to the House in order that the northwest and other sections may have their share in the Government to which they were constitutionally entitled.

The Great Excitement of the Day

Began when the appropriations for the Freedmen's Bureau were reached. Mr. Wood, of New Orleans, at once moved to strike out the first item, and McNeely, of Illinois, followed with an attack on General Howard's management of the Freedmen's Bureau, and especially in his conduct of Howard University operations. Hoar, of Massachusetts, came to General Howard's defense in a vigorous speech, during which he sharply criticised the Republican policy of the Democratic party with regard to the poor, the weak and the down-trodden. Shanks, of Indiana, followed in the same strain. Peters, of Maine, eloquently defended the character of General Howard. Then came Sunset Cox, who made an indignant attack on Massachusetts and the character of Massachusetts men as he was able, asserting that the latter were starved to death in the alms houses; that her insane asylums were institutions disgracing the name of charity; that she was the meanest State in the Union, and the pretences of philanthropy on the part of her public men were simply hypocrisy. While he was speaking, Dawes attempted to get the floor, when Cox attempted to bring in his sole stock of wit, saying he was not going to yield to [Dawes]. Massachusetts was not defended to-day by her ablest men. Hoar did not think it worth while, and Hoar's reply was one of the best of the many sharp, eloquent and decisive five minutes' speeches he has made the session, by which he won a place among the readiest and most powerful debaters on the floor. After showing up the character of the inveterate habit of the Democracy, whenever its crimes are aimed to, of cursing Massachusetts, he put the gentleman from New York had been pleased to remark that Massachusetts was not defended today by her Hector; that he (Hoar) longed leave to remind the gentleman that Troy did not require to be defended when attacked by Thersites. This terrible thrust challenged the admiration of both sides of the House. Republicans applauded while the Democrats quietly chuckled with delight, for Cox has attained a degree of unpopularity with many of his political friends because of his frequent impertinent interference in contests where he did not belong. The fifteen charges preferred by him against Howard, with the counter assertion that he had not proved one of them. He then challenged Wood with recommending the dissolution of the Union, and the establishment of New York as an independent free city. Wood said the charge was false, and the gentleman knew it. There was nothing left Cox to do but to withdraw in silence, and all the time he wanted. He spoke about fifteen minutes, reading from Wood's Messages as Mayor of New York, and other public records, and arraigning him as a disloyal and dangerous character, with a force and fervor which surprised and delighted the Republicans of the House. Wood's reply was adroit, cool and plausible, and delivered with that masterly self-possession, and consummate disdain of unworthy motives which no other man on either door of Congress can approach; but it was in the matter of it, weak and unreflective.

The Bill Passed.

After this the rules were suspended and the bill passed, though the majority had only one or two votes to spare. The result of the day's conflict is that the Democrats, who brought on an engagement in the hopes of making some party capital, were woefully defeated and badly demoralized.

Hayti's Opposition to the Annexation of San Domingo.

Correspondence not of a public character, received in this city from the Hayti and San Domingo Commissioners, indicates that the opposition to the proposed annexation of the country on the part of the Haytiens is very fierce and bitter—so much so that it is be accomplished, the friendly relations between that Republic and the United States are quite likely to be ruptured. The sentiment of the people of San Domingo, so far as ascertained, is very decidedly adverse to the scheme. Their reception by Baez is represented to have been very kind and apparently cordial.

Great Storm in San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, February 21.—Heavy rains are prevailing in this State. Last night at ten o'clock a terrific southeaster burst on the city, accompanied by rain, hail, thunder and lightning, doing much damage. Hitherto the inhabitants of California were accustomed not to the faint flashes of lightning, with low rumbles of thunder, hardly recognizable at intervals. There were fears last night; flashes as vivid as those seen in the Northern States, almost continuous, accompanied by tremendous peals of thunder, producing more consternation than a heavy earthquake shock. The storm, which co, commenced about midnight and lasted over an hour, the barometer falling lower than before known in this latitude.

At the corner of New and Montgomery streets a fire wall, twelve feet high and seventy feet long, was blown down from the top of the third story on to a frame building adjoining, crushing it into ruins, beneath which were buried fifteen or twenty persons. All got out safe or not fatally injured except Mrs. McDonald, wife of a watchman at the State prison, her child ten months old, a daughter twelve years old, and Mrs. Hogan, all of whom were instantly killed and frightfully mangled. Several others were injured, but none fatally. Three alarms of fire during the storm added to the horrors of the night the most remarkable ever experienced here. There was more thunder and lightning in one hour than ever before seen or heard in San Francisco altogether. The shipping in the harbor generally escaped without serious damage. The storm in the mountains was severe. The telegraph lines were damaged in all directions.

ANCIENT AMERICAN GIANTS.

Singular Discoveries in a Cave in Iowa—Mammoth Skeletons and Rude Sculptures.

Since the result of Governor Arny's explorations in New Mexico was made public, there has been no discovery of more interest to the American archæologist than the one alleged to have been made recently in Iowa, on the line of the projected Dubuque and Minnesota Railroad. A party of workmen, while engaged in excavating for the road, in the limestone, at the foot of a bluff, are said to have come upon a flat stone covered with strange characters. This being removed, opened the way into a passage about four feet wide and six feet high, leading directly into the heart of the bluff. At the distance of about fifty feet from the entrance the passage, similar to that first, had to be removed, when a large chamber revealed itself, cut out of the solid rock, about twenty-five feet square and twenty feet high. The floor was hard and smooth, while the walls and roof were carved, in a sort of rude *basso-relievo*, with figures of birds, trees, stars, serpents and chariots. The south wall was adorned with a representation of the sun, and immediately below this the figure of a man in the act of stepping out of a boat, and holding in his hand a dove." So far the revelations were not very different from many previous ones in similar caves and rock-chambers throughout our western country. But the most curious part of the discovery was yet to come. A flat slab in the floor of the cavern being raised, revealed below a vault filled with skeletons of unusual size, the largest being seven feet eight inches high by actual measurement. By the side of each skeleton was set a small vase filled with yellow earth, beneath which were found animal bones and particles of animal matter. The skeletons were placed in a semi-circle toward the southwest.

WHEN honors are meted out to those who deserve them most, Jane Dunn, the Brooklyn servant girl, will be entitled to a bronze. The other morning the house of her employer was burned, and at the risk of her own life this girl rushed through the dense smoke, when the fire was already raging, and rescued four children, bringing them safely out to the street in her arms and pushing the other two before her. Even after learning that one of the babes, a girl two years old, was in one of the upper rooms of the building, flushed in again, and almost suffocated reached the old man's room, and succeeded in getting him to the stairway. Escape here, however, was cut off. She now essayed escape, with her charge, by the scuttle, and succeeded in getting on the roof herself, dragging the old man after. But he unhappily, when on the very edge of safety, stumbled back overboard from the ladder, and was lost. He was burned to death before aid could reach him. The girl made her escape to an adjoining roof, whence she was rescued.

THE Supreme Court of Massachusetts has recently given a decision that is of interest not only to income tax payers, but to holders of New York Central stock, as it is an opinion upon the issue involved in the $5,000,000 compromise now pending before Commissioner Pleasanton, in a dispute between the holder of certain stock for life and the reversioner. Who was to take the same stock after the expiration of the life interest, the Massachusetts court has decided that only cash dividends can be treated as income, while stock dividends are principal, and go to the reversioner. That is to say: if a railroad or other corporation, which has been investing its surplus earnings in improvements or in paying off its debt, gives its shareholders new stock to represent these earnings, the new stock is not a dividend of earnings, but an addition to the capital.

A WASHINGTON correspondent, referring to Gen. Banks's recent speech mercilessly cutting up Porter and the navy in general, says: "The fact is that Gen. Banks is not fully in accord with the administration. He got scared some time ago on the Cuban question, and he doesn't mind it his speeches do bear rather hard upon the administration. Even Gen. Butler is having a hard time in keeping up his intimacy with the administration since the joint commission to settle our disputes with England has been agreed upon. Butler doesn't wish the fishery dispute to go to a commission, but would evidently prefer to be able at any time to threaten a war with England. His thunder has not exactly flown, but his power to make thunder has been sadly crippled.

The Lochiel Iron Works, Harrisburg, do a business in the production of iron and rails of $1,100,000 a year. Their capacity is 60 tons a day, or 15,000 tons a year. The company employs 400 men, to whom they pay in wages $20,000 a month, or $240,000 a year.

FINANCE AND TRADE

WEDNESDAY EVENING, February 22, 1871.

Financial matters are somewhat suspended today by a close observance of it as a holiday. The banks and savings institutions, as a deposit houses generally, are closed, as well as insurance offices; and in some business circles there is a partial observance. At New York and Philadelphia the various stock boards are closed, and financial circles generally are regarding the day as one worthy of special remembrance. It may be remarked in this connection that this is what may be called the weakest of our few national holidays. It has no characteristic feature or method of celebration, and the majority of persons are at a loss what to do with it. Most Americans "drive business" with such unflagging energy even on holidays, that they have no conception of amusement, and if left to their own resources for a day, are sadly at fault what to employ their leisure. Very few persons will acknowledge that their sole object in life is to accumulate money, and yet observe the many broad pauses in the pursuit of money often suggests to the "keen son of trade" himself, the query: "What other object?" For Sundays and for Christmas, New Year's day, Thanksgiving day and the Fourth of July, custom has established certain forms of observance which, so far from "come up in the order of business" of the year, and relieve the business man unpracticed in the use of leisure, but, when it comes to a day for which neither society as organized by the churches, nor society as organized by the State, has done anything in the way of providing a programme, the average business man is at a loss. We should always suggest to all the query above-mentioned, it might be possible to some beneficial results, but the fact, probably, is that business only must furnish the key in their offices and solemnly pore over their ledgers.

A new war of competition between the great lines of railroad from the Atlantic seaboard to the principal cities of the West seems about to be inaugurated. During the last few weeks there has been given evidence of a new life and energy in her efforts to secure Western trade, and especially to become the point of export for the products of the West. The main reliance of the city for accomplishing these objects is the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, the management of which has kept this end in view, and the New York *Bulletin* acknowledges that a careful examination of freights on the part of the Baltimore & Ohio Road has already diverted a considerable amount of trade in heavy and bulky goods from New York to Baltimore. Rumors have also been current lately that in addition to the line of roads through Northern Ohio and Indiana which will probably be finished inside of two years, and thus give the Baltimoreans Ohio an independent line connecting at once with Chicago, the Ohio and Mississipi Road was about to be leased to the Baltimore & Ohio, thus giving the latter road a through connection to St. Louis. Part of the plan of the supposed lease was also represented to be the chartering of a new broad gauge of the Ohio and Mississippi to the gauge of the Baltimore road, so as to run trains through without breaking freight, and this latter project also seems a reasonable story. Broad gauge roads have been tried, but have never succeeded. Besides, any broad gauge road in the West must be confined to the Erie for an Eastern outlet for through traffic, and must pay the experience some disadvantages from the bad reputation and mismanagement of the Erie. We are, however, inclined to think that any such arrangements and conclude that it is only the plausibility of the policies which has given it currency. This return to the rivalry between New York and Baltimore for the trade of the West in heavy and bulky goods, the New York *Bulletin* says, "will not be new. Formerly, a falling off in some branches of business which one have been compensated by the increase in others, while holders refused to make sufficient concessions to induce buyers to take freely. The result was a dull market generally, although for certain kinds. There was a moderate inquiry. The receipts since our last were: Oats 1,096 sacks; rye 529 sacks; barley 588 sacks; wheat 529 sacks; corn 325 sacks. The following figures may be considered nominal: Wheat—The mills have not purchased lately and are not anxious to invest. Red—$1 28@1 38 may be considered extreme prices. White $1 35@1 40 are the rates for a strictly prime quality. Corn steady, with small stocks to operate with. Sales of mixed by the prime yellow at bulk, 66@67c. Oats, 46@47c. Oats, with a light supply on the market, are held firmly, with sales on wharf and from track at 46@47c; extra white, 48@49c per bushel. Rye held firmly, holders not anxious to sell. We continue to quote at 86@90c per bushel. Barley was inactive, with a light inquiry in spring, 80@85c; fall, 90@95c per bushel.

GROCERIES.—The market firm and active. We give the following as the ruling figures:

Raw Sugars—Choice 11¾c; prime 11¼c; good 11c; fair 10¾c; ordinary 10½c; yellow 10¼c; prime 11c; good 11c; fair 15¼c@15½c; roasted in papers 22c.

Refined Sugars—Hards 15c; A coffee 13½c; B coffee 13½c; extra 14@14½c; C yellow 13½@13½c; Demerara, boxes, white, 12½c @ 13.

Syrups—Choice to prime white honey 76c; silver-drips 66c; extra honey 70@75c; lower grade 49 to 60c.

New Orleans Molasses—Good 65c; prime 70c; choice 72c.

Coffees—Strictly prime 19¼c; prime 18¾c; good 18¼@18½c; fair 15¾@15¾c; roasted in papers 22c.

Teas—Fancy Young Hyson $1 50; prime $1 25; fair $1 00; lower grades 75c@1 00; fancy Imperial $1 40; good $1 25; fair $1 10; Imperial fancy $1 40; good $1 25; fair $1 10; Oolong fancy $1 25; good 85c; fair 75c; Scncbong fancy $1 20; good 90c; fair 70@80c; Japan fancy $1 00; good 90c; fair 75c.

Spices—Allspice 20c. Pure pepper 21c. Cloves 20c. Cassia 60c.

Rice—Ales of choice Carolina at 9¼c; prime 9c.

HAY—Baled $1 45@1 50 per ton; rough, $12@17.

HIDES—Regular sales at 8@8¼c per lb.

HOMINY—Sales in a regular way, common $5 00; pearl $6 00.

HONEY—Sales at 30@35c ₱ lb.

LARD—The current prices were $4 00@4 50 ₱ bbl, choice selected $5@5 50 ₱ bbl. Receipts 786 bbls.

ASHES—Sales in a jobbing way of 100 bbls. Saleratus soda nash, common, 4¾ per cent., 3½c; refined, 55 per cent., 3¾@4c; potash, 7@7½c; pearls, 9@9½c ₱ lb.

APPLE BUTTER—Sales 1 gal. buckets at $10 50 ₱ doz; ₱ gallon 90@70c.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—There is a light demand, with sales at $5 50 ₱ bbl, and $2 50@3 00 ₱ cwt.

BROOM CORN—Sales of fair hurl at 6½c.

BRANS—Small navy $2 00 ₱ bushel; others as per quality, $1 75.

BUTTER—Market firm; sales at 30@31c ₱ lb.

BAKING POWDER—Banner ¼-lb cans, ₱ doz, $1 75; ½-lb cans, ₱ doz, $3 00; ₱ lb, $1 50 per dozen.

BAGS—Regular sales at 42½@45c ₱ lb.

SUMAC—Sales of Tennessee at 45c per ₱ lb.

SALT—Sales by the cargo, in bond at 62½@65; by the usual advance from store.

SEEDS—There is a better demand for seeds, with sales in lots as follows: Clover seed 56 75@7 00; ₱ bush; timothy $6 00@6 25; flaxseed, $2 10@2 20.

SALERATUS—Sales of 100 kegs at 5½c.

SOAP—Bubbitt's, Inc; Oatley's, 10½c; chemical olive, 8c; rosin, 7½c; ₱ lb.

CANDLES—Sales of kegs 6c; boxes, assorted papers 8c; sal soda 2½c ₱ lb.

TALLOW—Sales of city refined at 8¼@8½c ₱ lb.

TURNIPS—Sales by the barrel at $2 00; bushel at 60@75c.

FOREIGN FRUITS—Sales current at 11@11¼c ₱ lb; prunes 11½@12c; Valencia raisins 15@15½c; layer raisins $2 25 per box.

FEATHERS—Sales live geese feathers No 1 to the trade at 50c ₱ lb; 58c in a small way.

FLOUR—Receipts since our last 677 barrels. It will be seen by quotations that the mills have reduced rates about 20c ₱ bbl. See quotations: Choice white wheat, in bbls, $7 50@7 75; good brands red wheat, $6@6 75, 7 00@7 25; choice Minnesota, for baker's use, $7 00@7 25; in sacks 25c less; fair to good, $6 50@6 75; Indiana, $6 75@7 00; amber in barrels $6 50@6 75; sacks 25c less; Glory, in barrels $6 00, in sacks $6 20; Palmetto, in barrels $6 85; in sacks $6 55.

Graham—The market could not be termed an active one, dealers being somewhat apart in their views while holders refused to make sufficient concessions to induce buyers to take freely. The result was a dull market generally, although for certain kinds. There was a moderate inquiry. The receipts since our last were: Oats 1,096 sacks; rye 529 sacks; barley 588 sacks; wheat 529 sacks; corn 325 sacks. The following figures may be considered nominal: Wheat—The mills have not purchased lately and are not anxious to invest. Red—$1 28@1 38 may be considered extreme prices. White $1 35@1 40 are the rates for a strictly prime quality. Corn steady, with small stocks to operate with. Sales of mixed by the prime yellow at bulk, 66@67c. Oats, 46@47c. Oats, with a light supply on the market, are held firmly, with sales on wharf and from track at 46@47c; extra white, 48@49c per bushel. Rye held firmly, holders not anxious to sell. We continue to quote at 86@90c per bushel. Barley was inactive, with a light inquiry in spring, 80@85c; fall, 90@95c per bushel.

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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1871.

TERMS.

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SAN DOMINGO.

In our telegraphic columns will be found an interesting dispatch from the COMMERCIAL's special correspondent attached to the San Domingo Commission. It appears that the *Tennessee* had a very prosperous voyage and arrived in Samana Bay without the slightest detention or mishap; the knowledge of which fact furnishes a very pleasant finale to the country's prolonged anxiety and suspense concerning the safety of the party. The Commission lost no time in getting to work, and—as was to be expected from the high character of its members—is prosecuting a full and fair investigation, without reference to personal views and convictions. A majority of the people appear to be honestly desirous of annexation, the opposition to which is shown to be almost entirely confined to the Haytiens. So many discreditable charges have been made with respect to the question of land titles about the harbor of Samana, that we are glad to learn the Commission, after a thorough investigation of the whole subject, found no evidences that any official of the United States has been concerned in any operations of a private nature. Whatever grants have been made were conceded to private parties.

The problems which the Commission appears to regard as most important are, the difficulty of assimilating such a mixed population, the question whether the inhabitants, who have no system of internal taxation, would submit to the imposition of our own, and the possibility of war with Hayti. It will, however, express no opinion in the report as to the policy of annexation, but will confine itself to matters embraced in the Senate resolution under which it acts. The importance of Samana as a coaling station appears to strike every member of the party.

The country is represented as exceedingly rich, and apparently very healthy; but the people are described as indolent and shiftless. The most prosperous part of the population around Samana appears to be a negro colony which went out from Philadelphia nearly fifty years ago.

From Santo Domingo, whence our correspondent's dispatch dates, the Commission was to proceed to Azua, Sinae, Puerto Plata, and other important points, and afterwards to visit the great southern plains and certain of the principal inland cities. The industrious and unostentatious manner in which it is discharging its duties speaks well for President GRANT's judgment in his selection of the men who compose it. The observations being made include the various political, social and economic questions which relate to annexation; and we have no doubt that, whatever may be the ultimate result of the proposition, the report will, in our correspondent's language, "fully vindicate the President's motives," and prove that from first to last he has been prompted only by desire of the public good.

A few weeks ago that wise censor of manners, Mr. *Punch*, threw out the suggestion that when King WILLIAM should become Emperor of Germany he would probably assume the title of PIUS the First. It is certainly a pity that the exceedingly devout words, so often in the mouth, or rather in the proclamations and bulletins of the royal warrior, do not command more respect from the profane world. The majesty's piety, as we once informed our readers, has produced a profound impression upon the Mohammedan mind. When before referring to the conscience and set them over in effective opposition to his hounding appetites and passions. Neither Hess nor COLEMAN was a man of sensual build. And yet the one reveled in convivial grossness, the other in a more solitary indulgence hardly less ruinous. What a piteous wail sometimes arises out from the centre of their joyous song—the protest of the higher nature against the domination of the enfettering flesh. The realms of Art, Literature, Science and Philosophy are scattered broadcast with instances of a similar painful character. A few months ago one of the most gifted of our younger poets and essayists—FITZ HUGH LUDLOW—died in his early prime, discrowned and overthrown by that cause.

Nor does the curse of indulgence end even here. It brings a physical not less than a moral and intellectual retribution. Throughout all Christendom there is a tendency to physical degeneration. The European war having naturally attracted the attention of scholars and philosophers to the subject of the physical qualities of the men who compose the armies of the different nations, it has been found that for many years past there has been a gradual reduction of the regulation height required for recruits, accompanied with other modifications arising out of the physical deterioration of the people. The pigmy stature of the French troops has been a thousand times commented on during the progress of the war, and when it is remembered that the conscripts are always taller than the average population, the fact possesses a singular significance. The SAXON soldiery are said to be not only small, but also weak and bow-legged. In a certain district in England the average stature of the men being five feet seven inches, it was remarked on as being an extraordinary height. The whole population of Sweden is said to be becoming more and more diminutive.

In the United States, the growing decadence of physical strength is patent to all observers. Doubtless other causes than that of the excessive use of alcoholic stimulants enter into this result. Our haste, our hurry, our mania for speculation, our rash politics and still more reckless fashion help, doubtless, to produce the general effect; but it is beyond question that the chief agent is the intemperate use of intoxicating liquors. The worst woe of it all is that every successive generation is saddled not alone with its own mischiefs, but also with the evils of every generation which preceded it. And so the terrific Voice which was heard first on olden Sinai still sounds along the centuries, uttering the Absolute Imperatives to ourselves not less than to the Jews. Of alcoholic poisoning, Dr. ELAM, a distinguished physician and scientist who has brought to the subject the study of years, says:

"Whilst intoxication lasts a few hours, and *delirium tremens* a few days or perhaps weeks, the true chronic alcoholism spreads its baneful influence over years, if the constitution be originally strong enough to last out its effects so long. *All this, fearful as it is, would be comparatively of trifling importance, did the punishment descend only on the individual concerned, and terminate there.* Unfortunately, this is not so, for there is no phase of humanity in which hereditary influence is so marked or characteristic as in this. The children unquestionably do suffer from the sins of the parent, even unto untold generations. *And thus the evil spreads from the individual to the family, from family to community, and to the population at large*, which is endangered in its highest interests by the presence and contact of a 'morbid variety' in its midst."

This has a terrible significance. There is no doubt that the social and intellectual powers of society are being impaired, nor that new maladies are springing up to afflict the public health, nor that the statistics of crime and insanity are increasing in a greater proportion than can be accounted for by increased population. The past results of penal legislation in regard to the liquor traffic have not made us sanguine as to the power of statutory enactments to grapple and solve the question; but grappled it must be, in some way. Upon the fathers and mothers of the country rest a most grave responsibility. Not until they have lifted themselves above that abnormal craving for stimuli which is the bane of the age, can they expect their children to be free from the downward-dragging fascination. Josh BILLINGS spoke true: "If you want to reform a tippler you must begin upon his grandmother."

AN EVIL CONSEQUENCE OF FRENCH DEFEAT.

Some very idle anticipations have been entertained concerning the probable results of their defeat upon the French people. Thus many have indulged the hope that the French people, thoroughly disgusted with war by their experience of its horrors, and completely sick of military glory, would at once inaugurate an era of peace. All such hopes are, we suppose, mere dreams, fancies founded upon a quite inadequate conception of the French character and the condition of the French people, but of the character of the ruling class in Germany. While the great mass of the Germans are undoubtedly devoted to the arts of peace and happy in the pursuit of them, the kings, princes and nobles still look with complacency on the ancient system of which they daily enjoy the advantages in the position of the superiority which it won them long ago and secures them to-day. Feudalism is still powerful among them, and will never be voluntarily abolished or renounced. The continuance of the system implies a state of war whether active or latent, as social and political predominance not derived from the inherent superiority of the individual, can be maintained only by force. Kings and princes must have soldiers to defend them, and in one way or another military qualities and the martial life, must be made to appear necessary to the general welfare, and respectable, if not glorious in the eyes of the plebeian and unwarlike multitude. In the presence of France, Russia, England, Switzerland and Italy disarmed and absolutely pledged to a policy of perpetual peace, the essentially feudal institutions of Prussia could not long be maintained. Its military system, hateful to a large proportion of the people, would be at once swept away, and the complete triumph of liberalism would speedily follow.

But by the results of the war with France the prospect of so happy a state of European affairs, has been indefinitely postponed, while the social and political establishments of Germany, for some years tottering under the blows of modern progress, have received a new lease of life, so that thoughtful Germans are afraid that one consequence of the wonderful subjection of France will be a retrocession of liberty in Germany. By the war Germany has been made great but not free. It has been made strong by the improvement of its boundaries, but as a result of the humiliation of France and of the intense longing for revenge excited among the French people, the necessity of unceasing vigilance has been imposed upon the victorious power. The conqueror may never for a day lay aside his armor, but must be ever in a state of preparation to receive the spring of his enemy. It is neither uncharitable nor unreasonable to believe that this result is highly agreeable to Count BISMARCK and his royal masters. They have doubtless foreseen, if they have not directly labored for the consummation, as it is likely to effect for many a year the ascendancy of the domestic policy which is known to be dear to their hearts. It is not to be supposed that they wish for war; but merely that a state of rankling resentment on the part of their Gallic neighbors may seem to them to serve a useful political purpose at home. In the meantime, they are careful to establish such physical or geographical relations between Germany and France as to secure the former against surprise by the latter, together with immense advantages in the conflict of the future, if conflict shall again become inevitable.

Contentment in their humiliation is certainly not to be expected of the defeated power. Even grave and intellectual Frenchmen, when writing about the negotiations for peace, make mention of future revenge as their consoling hope. In the cable dispatches yesterday mention was made of "a bill to be presented in the Assembly organizing a provisional army, and proposing a commission to inquire as to the best plan for the definite reorganization of the entire military establishment." In the present stage of affairs this is surely significant. If an Orleans prince becomes King of France, he will probably be chosen as the hereditary enemy of Germany, and there is reason to fear that the ingenuity, energies and resources of the country will receive a decidedly military direction never hitherto known.

Mrs. BROWNING somewhere says:

"We English have a scornful insular way
Of calling the French light."

But she protests against the justness of the charge. So deeply wounded in their self-esteem as they have been by defeat, and so outraged as they all seem to have been in their sense of justice by the dismemberment of their territory, there is no reason to anticipate any lack of earnestness or persistence in fulfilling the task imposed upon them of restoring their military prestige and political importance in the punishment of their conqueror.

According to a cable dispatch in our paper of Tuesday, "the appointment of JULES SIMON as Minister of Public Instruction was in consequence of his notorious infidelity." The statement is of a sort with which all are familiar who have noticed the facility with reasons are found and conclusions arrived at, when malice takes up arms as a volunteer in the service of religion. All who have any knowledge of the subject are aware that JULES SIMON is pre-eminently qualified for the ministry to which he was appointed as a member. of the late government, the position in which he has been retained by the government succeeding it. In 1839 Mr. SIMON became COUSIN's substitute as instructor in the history of Philosophy at the Soirbonne, and for six or more years lectured there with splendid success. As a member of the Legislative body from 1863, he belonged to the liberal opposition and rendered excellent service by defending the liberty of the press, the rights of public instruction, the interests of women of the industrial classes and all useful reforms. By the French he is also regarded as one of the most remarkable writers of the time. His writings and his life have both proved him an earnest friend of men, and a sincere supporter of all measures designed for their improvement. When, after the catastrophe of Sedan, he became Minister of Public Instruction, he at once entered upon his duties with as much zeal and singleness of purpose as if the country were at peace, and did not allow even the siege of Paris to interrupt the schools in their work.

WHAT CAN BE DONE AND HOW TO DO IT.

We reprint the following extract from the ship news columns of the *Tree of Liberty* dated at Pittsburgh March 31, March 28 and April 7, 1804:

"The brig Navina, Captain Sam. McCutcheon, 150 tons, loaded in part—belonging to Tarascon, Hess, James Berthond & Co.—left this place on Thursday last for Louisville, where she takes the remainder of her cargo.

"THE EXPERIMENT, OF BEAVER FALLS,
Belonging to Hoopes, Townsend & Co., and being the first New Orleans boat that has been built on Beaver, was brought over the falls on the 24th inst.

The novelty of the scene had attracted a numerous concourse of people to witness what all thought an enterprise too hazardous to attempt—and considering the unimproved state of things at that place, and two years since was by no means contemplated. She was, however, safely conducted over the falls and is now lying at Townsend's Mills. The above boat is 53 feet in length, and is now for sale by Hoopes, Townsend & Co. March 28, 1804.

April 7. Launched, on the 30th, the ship Louisiana, 300 tons burthen. On the 1st inst., the schooner Allegheny, owned by Lord & Barber. On Saturday last the schooner Conquest, 126 tons, pierced for 18 guns, owned by Jas. O'Hara, left on Wednesday with four for West Indies."

By way of contrast we reprint the following from our own issue of the 16th inst:

The iron sidewheel steamship Whitney, just built by the Harlem and Hollingsworth Company, for Charles Morgan, Esq., of New York, sailed from this port at five o'clock this morning for New Orleans. She carried about a dozen or fifteen passengers, amongst them her owner and several members of his family. The Whitney is one of the finest steamships ever built in America, and is the twenty-third built here for Mr. Morgan. She is in every respect a seaworthy ship, and has powerful machinery and new patent wheels, which are expected to insure in her great speed. We predict for her a popularity equal to that attained by her consort, the Josephine, which has honorably won the title of "the Queen Steamer of the Gulf." The Whitney will join her on the route between New Orleans and Galveston.—*Wilmington Commercial, Monday.*

We learn from these items that in the beginning of the present century, when only wooden seagoing vessels were in use, Pittsburgh was a successful competitor with the seaboard towns in building them, both for use by the builders, and *for sale*.

That within the short term of the single week we have noted, in 1804, a brig, a trip, two merchant schooners and one war schooner were launched or set sail for New Orleans from Pittsburgh. That one at least of the old competitors of Pittsburgh in building wooden seagoing craft, is engaged in the successful construction of iron vessels for the gulf and ocean markets. We know that Pittsburgh is the great iron manufacturing center of the United States, and that in her capabilities for the production of the material for the construction of iron hulls and steamers she has no equal. She is to-day as far ahead of Wilmington in this particular as were the oak-crowned hills of the Allegheny superior to the cleared flats of Delaware, for the production of ship timber, seventy-six years ago. And these considerations suggest the question: Why is not Pittsburgh to-day—what she ought to be, and we hope will be—the chief city of the United States for the construction of iron seagoing vessels?

The answer is plain. The successful use of iron in ship building is entirely a recent, and not being upon the seaboard, we have not had in actual sight the great ocean commerce—the fleets of foreign going ships, and the nerves of shipmasters to tempt us to share the harvest of wealth which is to be reaped in the process of supplying the world and increase, and substituting the worn out and lost with vessels of iron. In the multiplicity of our home industries we have not been forced as yet to look abroad for work to do. If individuals among us have seen and thought of the mine of wealth capable of being developed in this industry, they shrink from it on account of the large capital it would probably require, and the lack of which might result in failure.

Pittsburgh enterprises, unlike those of similar magnitude in other places, are almost all the work of individuals or firms. Only within the last few years have the citizens discovered the advantages of associating in corporations for manufacturing. To our mind these answers to the question are satisfactory as to the past and instructive as to the future. Although we do not see ocean fleets in our harbor, we can no longer —in the face of our own knowledge and the works done upon the Clyde and the Mersey —resist the conviction that the demand for iron vessels will be for years almost unlimited. We know that, however successful in our present industries, Pittsburgh dare not and must not stand still. Other cities are struggling to add to themselves new elements of progress; and advantages which apathy may lose for us, energy will gain for them. We know that the few manufacturing enterprises established here by associated capital are eminently successful. We know that anything attempted in iron, that can *live* elsewhere in America, will *thrive* in Pittsburgh; and we know that for any associated enterprise our manufacturers and business men may choose to undertake, they have capital, ability and energy unlimited.

With a few of our best men at the head of it a company can be organized and a charter procured, to construct iron ships and river steamers. The capital should be not less than half a million—only so much to be paid in as shall be found necessary—and with the right to increase to a million. The business should not be confined to building or orders, but should be continuous. Such vessels not ordered could be laden for New Orleans with a profitable freight, and will there, or at New York, find ready sale, as in the days when the TARASCONS, O'HARA, HOOPES and others carried on a similar business in wooden ships and schooners. A man of the highest business ability should be placed at the head, and experts should be brought from the Clyde, or wherever the best could be obtained. For the construction of river craft our own Pittsburgh mechanics cannot be excelled. And as to the precise location of the works anywhere within ten miles would do, but nowhere seems so perfectly adapted to the purpose as the long strip of land on the South Side, opposite to the Point, which, if we are rightly informed, has the required depth of water in front of it.

We believe this can be done. We have suggested how it may be done; we know it ought to be done, and we hope our business men and capitalists will do it. If undertaken by the right men, the stock will be in demand.

A CHAPTER ON STIMULI.

A quaint genius who in a grotesque and homely way has uttered a good many important truths, says: "If you want to reform a tippler you must begin upon his grandmother." Spite of the apparent ludicrousness of this statement a profound philosophy underlies it. The child is father of the man. The tendencies and predispositions of the parent are projected into the fundamental structure and organization of the offspring. The characters of men and women are in a very large degree the result of causes antecedent to their own existence, and over which they can exert no control. Many a man, like Lord BYRON and EDGAR ALLEN POE, with exquisite perceptions of moral truth and beauty, has been cursed with a latent madness in the blood which, derived from his progenitors, has goaded him onward in paths utterly foreign and repugnant to his normal instincts. There is such a disease as paralysis of the will. It is possible that a man "may know the right and yet the wrong pursue," from sheer inability to gather up the forces of his con-

THE ENGLISH ARMY REFORM.

LORD CLARENDON's bill on the reorganization of the British Army, mentioned in yesterday's cable dispatches, is in some respects the most important measure of modern British legislation. It is a real advance in the direction of popular progress. It invades the private domains of those solemn exclusives, the Barnacles, without so much as asking "by your leave;" and it airs and ventilates the musty mysteries of the Circumlocution Office in a way that would have done the heart of DICKENS good to witness. Is is like letting a draught of breezy country air into a passage dank with the damps and choked with the rubbish of ages. And while the reforms which it institutes are in themselves of the first importance, they possess additional significance from the fact that they form a constituent part of the great liberal movement which is agitating all the several strata of English society.

The abolition of the "purchase system," and the substitution therefor of an honest system of promotion by seniority and selection based on meritorious service, is a great step gained. The system previously in vogue enabled any young fledgling with a full purse to buy his way over the heads of veterans who had grown gray in the service of their country. Talent was nothing, skill was nothing, brilliancy of record nothing, unless backed by the potency of money. We do not of course mean to infer that every rich man in the army was incompetent or an ignoramus, nor every poor man a paragon of ability and excellence. The fault was in the method, not in the men; although many a gallant officer went down to his grave prematurely from the fret and friction which came of seeing how the wealthy stripling carried away the prizes and honors which himself had toiled through years to deserve. This injustice is now to be remedied.

We could have wished that that feature of the bill which proposed to limit the incumbency of the Commander-in-Chief to a term of five years, had been retained. This appointment, conferred by the Sovereign, and held during royal pleasure, is far more often made from motives of private friendship, or the demands of personal relationship, or the claims of family and title, than upon grounds of fitness, capacity, and identification with the interests of the troops. The present incumbent, His Royal Highness the Duke of CAMBRIDGE, is a cousin of Queen VICTORIA, and it appears that the party friendly to the royal family were successful in lobbying this feature of the measure aside.

Another change which the bill makes is the consolidation of the dual administration of the army into one bureau. Heretofore the British army has had two distinct and separate headships—the Horse Guards and the War Office. It was one, yet twain, an unwieldy pair of Siamese twins; inseparably connected, yet often unsparingly at war. They are now to be combined, and initialized, like LAMBE's "two single gentlemen rolled into one." The bill has other comendable features, among them the provision that examination must precede commission. Those to which we have referred will, however, serve to indicate the radical revolution which is in progress. These changes are doubtless in some degree attributable to the lessons taught by the Franco-Prussian war, and the exigencies arising out of England's international relationships; but they are also measurably the result of that impalpable, subtle, irresistible, onward movement and impulsion which, for lack of a better name men have agreed to call "the spirit of the age." And therefore we welcome them.

A FRENCH REPUBLIC.

To many it is far from clear what precisely is meant by the word *Conservative* so frequently used just now in the cable dispatches and the newspapers to denote the political attitude of a party in the French National Assembly. With, however, little reason, the Committee of Defense has always claimed to represent a republic as the form of rule receiving the homage of the French people, a rule recognized by the United States as the *de facto* government of France. In view of this fact a French conservative would appear to be one who favored the maintenance of the Republican principle as the foundation of its government. In the actual though necessarily temporary condition of affairs in France, it should seem that there is nothing to *conserve* but the Republican principle in opposition to the principle of despotism which has brought so many and frightful disasters upon the nation. Beyond the Atlantic the subject is not seen in this light. The Republic has not been recognized by any of the great powers. The establishment of a republic as the permanent government of France is regarded with dread by foreign politicians in the fear of democratic propagandism by example if not by positive efforts, while by alarge proportion of the well-to-do classes in France itself, a republic is feared as being too weak to maintain society upon its ancient foundation. They are conservatives in desiring a government able to prevent radical changes in the social state as it heretofore existed and also adapted by its forms, and by its methods of administration to satisfy the instincts and conditions of a people ignorant and untrained in guiding and taking care of themselves. It is, however, thought by many Frenchmen that an escape from the difficulties of the situation may be found in the establishment of a republic. Though the elections have shown that the Orleanists have many friends, it seems to be generally allowed that France is not just now prepared to receive an Orleans King. The BONAPARTE dynasty may, we suppose, be at once set aside as out of the question, though it, too, has many supporters. It is admitted that large numbers of each of the monarchical parties would be willing to unite in favor of a popular government of the sort wished for by the moderate republicans. In debating the subject in the Assembly the danger is that the extremists of the party, fanatics or demogogues of the style of ROCHEFORT and FLOURENS, will succeed in making themselves the most conspicuous representatives of Republicanism, and by their violence and the ventilation of their wild theories, excite general disgust with the name. Should republicanism be so fortunate as to meet with wise and moderate advocates in the Assembly, and should the fools and enthusiasts keep themselves in the background, the deliberations of the Assembly may result in the re-establishment of a republic, as being the form of government most likely to harmonize existing parties, and best adapted to restore the prostrate fortunes of France.

THE Committee of Conference on the Allegheny Fee Bill consists of Senators GRAHAM, ANDERSON and DUNCAN, and Messrs. ROBB, WHITE, and MCGOWAN of Philadelphia, on the part of the House. This effectually ties up the matter, and demonstrates how not to do it as perfectly as anything could, since committees of this kind do not vote as one body but separately. The Senators will adhere to the amendment of that body, and Messrs. ROBB and MCGOWAN to the House amendments. Mr. WHITE, though agreeing to the Senate's action, will be powerless. It was said at the outset that the great concern of a majority of the Allegheny delegation, though covered all over with the most solemn pledges, was how to get out of them without incurring the direct responsibility. The public will see how they have managed it. It is to be noted, however, that, had Messrs. ROBB, HUMPHREYS and TAYLOR voted the other way Reform would have been obtained. While awarding Mr. WHITE all credit for a faithful effort to redeem his pledges, we beg leave to ask what are his views now on the the subject of obtaining reform inside the party?"

THROUGH private letters from England we learn that the distress among the poorer classes in consequence of the severity of the winter is of a very extreme character. Th unusually early and heavy frosts threw thousands of laborers out of employment, many of whom have, it is said, since died of actual starvation. In London and all the principal towns the sufferings of these poor people are described as being lamentable. We admire the generosity which prompted England's recent liberal gifts to famished Paris, but have not her own children who sit helpless in their cheerless homes and die, an equal claim upon her sympathies? Is it any marvel that an ominous murmur should run greatening across the land, when the cry of the poor for bread is met and mocked by a demand of royalty for newer marriage doweries and pensions? "Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin." And yet the foolish masqueraders mask on.

THE INTENTION AND THE ACT.

Pledges Before, and Votes After Election.

On the 5th of October last, when the "regular" Legislative candidates were before the people for their suffrages, and when they had voluntarily pledged themselves to carry out the measures to which the "reform" candidates stood pledged, the Pittsburgh *Gazette*, in publishing those pledges, introduced the letters and indorsed the sentiments in the following language:

[From the Pittsburgh Gazette, October 5, 1870.]

Our Candidates—How They Stand on Reform.

We commend to our readers the following communications, pledging the candidates to support in letter and spirit, the resolutions of our Republican Convention. Every one of them is plain, and there is no evasion of the points. Those resolutions were all in the true spirit of reform, within the party, and without endangering its unity. When men place themselves on such ground, any *doubt of their intentions* can only arise through some personal vindictiveness that has not the slightest reform about it.

The *Gazette* now judges some of these same men—taking their *acts* as evidence of their *intentions*—in the following plain language:

[From the Pittsburgh Gazette, February 16, 1871.]

Fee Bill.

Our telegrams from Harrisburg settle the question of who among the Allegheny delegation is responsible for the defeat of the Fee bill. They also settles this question. There is *no hole to creep out of, no excuse to give*, no *avoiding the issue*. The *secret charge of having defeated the bill*. But this vote shows more than this. It shows conclusively that all the talk about the Senate's having passed the bill was *simply trash*. There was evidently *not one word of truth in the pretense*. The Democratic members of our delegation who voted against concurrence with the Senate *could have passed the bill as amended by the Senate*. We desire this fact to be publicly known everywhere. Messrs. Robb, Taylor and Humphreys *defeated the bill and did so without giving any reason for so doing*. Mr. Robb made his amendment after he had a knowledge of the bill for two months. Yet his amendment had reference to nothing but allowing the officers elected on pledges to escape from those pledges. We desire this fact to be remembered by the public. There has been a great talk brought to bear against the bill. Every argument that could be advanced has been made against it. Any yet, after two months of analysis and investigation, Mr. Robb, *the leader of those* WE MOST EMPHATICALLY CHARGE WITH VIOLATION OF THEIR PLEDGES, could find no other amendment to make, than one to except two officers from its operation. More than this, his whole argument against the bill as amended by the Senate, was based entirely on the policy of keeping the present officers from coming under the operation of the law. This is another fact to be kept before the public. Had these officers been any party to advance, Mr. Robb would have advanced them, but having no good arguments, he clung to the one of favoritism, which he appears to have clung to from the first.

The vote stood 45 to 48 nays. With these 48 nays Messrs. Humphreys, Robb and Taylor, voted. It will be readily seen that had the Allegheny delegation been with the bill they would have passed, and that had two of these members from Allegheny voted for the bill, it would have passed.

We have thus given a plain detailed statement of the facts. We state plainly that we regard those voting "as VIOLATING THEIR PLEDGES TO THE PEOPLE. Mr. Robb acknowledges that he made the pledge, but stated that the minds of our citizens has changed. In support of this statement, which we are satisfied is *entirely erroneous*, he produced *two* letters. Why did he not also produce the *resolutions of the Executive Committee* passed in the month of August, the same month, giving that our members *adhere to their pledges*, and a copy of which was sent to Mr. Robb with all the other pledges. But the excuse then is no excuse at all, and there can be none given. We have urged that these pledges should be redeemed, and it remains now for the public at large to determine what action shall be pursued. Our members were elected during the full tide of the most severe tests this county has ever seen. *They voluntarily made pledges*. They have, in our opinion, VIOLATED THEM, AND SHOULD BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACT FOR ALL TIME TO COME.

WHO IS "MR. SMITH?"

We can imagine a thousand people ready to answer the above question by the inquiry whether it is the ubiquitous *"John."* We do not know, but the man we are after is "Mr. SMITH, of Philadelphia," who objects in the House of Representatives that "it is unfair to cut down an officer elected under existing laws," and that "it is *unjust*" even though the officer himself might have agreed to it."

Mr. SMITH is decidedly *conservative* of existing abuses. Reform may be a good thing, always provided it does not interfere with the officers themselves, who are by all means to be looked after in the first place, on the principle that the *office* is for the *man*, and not, after the antiquated notion, that it is but a trust from the *people*. Whether Mr. SMITH has belonged to "the row" and picked up his political ethics there, or aspires to fill a place in it hereafter, we do not know. It is clear, however, that his opinions will find an echo there. We doubt whether there is a man in the Commission who will not, on hearing of his speech, be ready to exclaim with SHYLOCK:

"Oh, noble judge! Oh, excellent young man!
How much more elder art thou than thy looks!"

But it is not only, in the estimation of the aforesaid "Mr. SMITH," *unfair* to cut down an officer, but absolutely *unjust* to allow him even to consent to it. And though of course either upon the ground of duress *per minas*—as the lawyers say—or because it is of evil example to tolerate such consideration on the part of an inferior, who is bound by no contract, and ought not to be permitted to have a will of his own.

We take it for granted that if Mr. SMITH had been a member of the Long Parliament he would have voted flat against the "*self-denying* ordinance," or if a judge, that he would have declared it unconstitutional; or to put it more understandingly, perhaps that if instructed and pledged to keep down his own compensation as a legislator to $700 a year, he would regard it as eminently "unjust" to be held to his bargain in such a way as to disable him from pocketing a few hundreds more.

We have no prejudice against the SMITH family generally, which is, by the way, far too numerous to be safely quarreled with; but, in view of the disastrous effect of these teachings upon our own juveniles at Harrisburg, we feel like exclaiming, in the helplessness of inadequate utterance, "Mr. SMITH, how could you? Oh, Mr. SMITH! Mr. SMITH! Mr. SMITH!"

LATE letters from Berlin describe the burial of a very distinguished Roman Catholic priest, with some interesting particulars of his life. Father COMBE was the son of a rich Jew, who became suddenly a bankrupt. The boy had early shown a decided talent as well as taste for music, in which he was carefully instructed by LISZT. When reduced to poverty by the pecuniary failure of his father, he supported himself by giving concerts. In Paris, playing the organ at a ceremonial of the Catholic Church, the young Jew was so deeply impressed by the imposing pomp of the solemnity that he at once received baptism at the hands of a priest, retired to a monastery and for twenty years devoted himself to theological studies and religious meditation. A Frenchman in his heart, soon after the outbreak of the war, he returned to Germany for the purpose of ministering to the wants of the French prisoners there, and a short time ago he died of a disease contracted in a hospital. The case is interesting, as it illustrates a character and tendencies not uncommon among the Hebrew race.

WHEN denouncing the American traffic in arms and warlike munitions with the French, our German fellow-citizens have often asserted that even the American government has directly engaged in this trade. This charge was recently made by Dr. FRIEDRICH KAPP, in a letter from Berlin, published in the *Nation*. In the last number of the *Nation*, a correspondent replies to the charge in a firm denial. This correction is signed with the initials F. L.; no doubt, Dr. FRANCIS LIEBER, himself a German, whose name gives great weight to his statements. He says:

"It is true that cases of arms, with the sign of the government factory on the cases, have been sold and shipped to France. Our government sold the arms then, as it always does, to private parties, who, in turn, sold them to the French. It was no surreptitious transaction, nor was it a feigned one."

GENERAL NEGLEY is having his speech in favor of the repeal of the Income TAX law printed (at so much a line) in several papers, and himself commended for making it. The only comment that need be made on this is, that on the same day he made this speech the friends of repeal made a systematic though unsuccessful effort to carry their point, *and General Negley was found voting and acting against them.*

HON. MILES S. HUMPHREYS has been agreed on in a caucus of labor organizations in Pennsylvania as their candidate for Auditor General at the ensing election, subject to the approval of the Republican State Convention. We believe that this is the first intimation that Mr. HUMPHREYS is a candidate.

THE result of the second census in New York is a complete answer to the partisan clamor about the inaccuracy of the enumeration last summer. The former total was 925,485, and the gain upon it was 16,767, twenty-two more than the gain of the second enumeration in Philadelphia. This closeness is remarkable. Another noteworthy thing is Superintendent Walker's remark that, "Had they, (the Marshal and his assistants) not taken far more pains than the Government paid for, or had a right to expect, the result of the first count of the population would have fallen considerably short of 900,000." This is strong testimony to the insufficiency of the system provided by Congress for taking the census.

A CORRESPONDENT of the New York *Tribune* asserts that large quantities of axles, sold to many of our railroads, are made of scrap and other cheap material, used per force because the railroad managers will pay for no better. That paper says the letter "was from so responsible and well-informed a source as to warrant the uneasiness it is likely to create." Inquiry into the truth of this charge will properly come within the scope of the committee of the New York Legislature into the New Hamburg disaster. There is not much reason to expect, though, that this investigation will be made searching enough to be of any value.

DR. FRANCIS VINTON, of Trinity Church, New York, writes to President Grant announcing fresh reasons for the annexation of San Domingo. He thinks the island would be an excellent sanitarium, the idea being occasioned by a visit to Nassau, N. P., where he found all the American residents longing for a resort on American soil in the West Indies for the benefit of invalids. More important reasons were learned from H. B. M.'s Governor Walker, at Nassau, who had been forty-one years in the West Indies. His eulogy of San Domingo was unqualified, and he hoped the United States would secure San Domingo, because our civilization and culture would redeem the society of the West Indies, the soil and production of the island, surpassing those of any other, not excepting Cuba, would enrich our country beyond any cost that its acquisition would demand. An "intelligent sea captain" also pointed out to Dr. Vinton upon the chart, that, supposing the ship canal to be made through the Isthmus of Panama, the direct route from Asia to Europe *must* pass through the channels on either side of San Domingo, which accordingly must become the great entrepot between these quarters of the world. Dr. Vinton wishes his old friend and schoolmate at the Dane Law School, Cambridge, Mr. Sumner," would see this matter as he does, and prays that God's blessings may prosper the President's plans in this regard, for the benefit of universal man, the good of our dear country, and the happiness of the inhabitants of the island.

CERTAIN Free Traders have been gleefully asserting that Illinois is on their side, because the House of Representatives adopted the following resolution from the last State Republican platform:

"It is wrongful and oppressive to enact *revenue laws for the special advantage of one branch of business at the expense of another*, and that the best system of protection to industry is that which imposes the lightest burdens and the fewest restrictions on the property and business of the people, and *promotes the prosperity of all.*"

They neglect to mention that at the same time the House laid the following amendment on the table by a vote of 84 to 72—71 of the 72 being Democrats:

"And the existing tariff laws are wrongful and oppressive; *are* in their operation for the 'special advantage of one branch of business at the expense of another;' do tax the substance and the earnings of the citizen for a purpose other than 'the maintenance of the Government, the payment of its debts, and the promotion of the general welfare,' and *should* be at once reduced to as near a free-trade basis as is consistent with these ends; thereby lightening the burdens of and removing the restrictions from the property and business of the people, and promoting the prosperity of all."

They also refrain from noticing that a substitute, as follows, for the first clause of the original resolve, was also laid on the table:

"That all systems of taxation for *protection*, and all class legislation and monopolies, are wrong in principle, and contrary to the spirit of our free institutions."

Evidently the Republicans of Illinois have no intention of indorsing unadulterated Free-Trade or Low-Tariff heresy as it is interpreted here, as it is interpreted by the importers of New York.

THE Hudson River Railroad appears to be "going to the dogs." Two other accidents, both of a serious character—and the wonder is that they were not more serious—have happened since the New Hamburg slaughter. The first was undeniably the result of carelessness which can be viewed in no other light than as criminal. The Montreal train was compelled to wait an hour for a freight train to get out of the way, and it waited on a draw-bridge. Another train going the same way on the same track was due only a few moments after the position on the draw-bridge was taken up. Nevertheless, no signals were displayed, and the consequence was the following train plunged into the standing train. Luckily, however, the engineer saw the danger, and used his engine and brakes to check his train, which was going at the rate of thirty-five miles an hour. As it was, a number of persons in the forward car, filled with passengers, none of whom were seriously injured. The second was a passenger train jumping the track down an embankment, where it was borne. Although many were exposed to death and injury, no one was seriously hurt. Mr. Vanderbilt's attempts to run his road on the watered stock is not likely to prove successful.

ALTHOUGH it is rather late in the day for it, we are pleased to find H. G. Eastman, of Poughkeepsie, writing to the papers to contradict all and singular the reports of bad conduct on the part of railroad officers and other people at New Hamburg. He says the physicians of Poughkeepsie were at the wreck before daylight on Tuesday: that all the loose garments, letters and valuables were carefully preserved, and memoranda made of everything that could lead to identification: that telegrams were immediately sent to their relatives, and later in the day parties in New York, known to be connected in any way with the victims, were communicated with personally. He also declares flatly that not a shadow of foundation for the report that Mr. Toucey or his assistants were lacking either in efficiency or humanity; and it is a malicious statement that the bodies were brutally treated, that they were exposed to the heartless jests of bystanders, or that a manuscript sermon was read amid the coarse jeering of a crowd. He admits that there were attempts at theft by "vagrant-looking" parties, but that such attempts and rascals shall have the most liberal postal and telegraphic facilities for communication with the entire world. At the same time, all previous reports are abrogated, and the whole neighborhood placed on the same footing with other Italian citizens. Letters from Florence indicate that while the bill will most likely pass through the chamber of deputies without serious opposition, its navigation through the Senate will be more dangerous.

THE London *Spectator* of January 28 suggests a combination, of which little has been heard, although it is undoubtedly seriously thought upon in some quarters. That paper has little doubt that if the Kaiser would agree, and the Belgian Parliament would assent, France would almost unanimously elect Leopold of Belgium King, with his country and his constitution together. It thinks it not beyond "the range of possibility" that both approvals may be given. Such a combination would give to the Kaiser's Generals the Belgian county of Boullon, which they wish complete their strategical line, and would enable the Belgian people to make operative their sympathy for France, open to them enormous gains in trade and relieve their apprehension of Germany's attractive force being too strong for their country to maintain its integrity.

THE *Quebec Mercury* is urging that the Assembly of the province of Quebec can transact all needed business at biennial sessions, and among other examples cites that of Ohio, saying: "If the saving in expense effected by the sitting of the Assembly every second year be worth the while of so great, rich and prosperous a State as Ohio, surely it is well worth the while of this impoverished province to do likewise." Unfortunately for the *Mercury's* illustration, if not its argument, the Legislature of Ohio does assemble every winter. The State constitution requires biennial sessions, but our Buckeye friends evade that requirement of their fundamental law by having the Legislature adjourn at the close of its first session to the first Monday of the next January.

SHAREHOLDERS of the Erie Railroad Company representing over $28,000,000 have appealed to the New York Legislature to repeal the directors' classification act, so-called, which keeps four directors in office each year. But the Railroad Committee at Albany could not give such a small matter a hearing, because it was considering the momentous question of the Lake Champlain Ferry. Evidently Erie is in the ascendent. It is remarked that the petitioners represented more shares than the Company had issued, before the present gang got hold of it.

THE Philadelphia *Day* is authority for the statement that the name of General Meade is much mentioned at Washington in connection with the Democratic candidacy for the Presidency. Says that paper: "His position—as a Pennsylvanian—gives him a marked advantage; for the forecasters of the political horoscope all lay great stress upon the importance of carrying Pennsylvania in 1872. It must be conceded that General Meade would make a strong run in this State, and if his success may not be declared certain, his candidacy would render the success of